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ARMENIAN POEMS

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RENDERED INTO ENGLISH VERSE

BY

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL

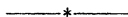


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PREFACE.



TWO considerations led to the publication of this book. The first was the belief that the sympathy felt for the Armenians in their unspeakable sufferings at the hands of the Turks would be deepened by an acquaintance with the temper and genius of the people, as shown in their poetry.

The second was the fact that Armenian poetic literature, while well worthy to be known, was practically inaccessible to English-speaking readers. Its treasures are locked up in an almost unknown language.

Each of these translations in verse has been made from a literal translation in prose, furnished to me in English or French by my Armenian friends. Among those who rendered this help were the late Mr. Ohannes Chatschumian of Leipzig University, Professor Minas Tchéraz of King's College, London, editor of "L'Arménie;" the late Kevork Tourian, the martyred Bishop of Trebizond: Archag Tchobanian, Garabed H. Papazian, Haroutune Aslan, Arsén Diran, Avedis B. Selian,

Sahag Chuchian, Aram Torossian, Karekin Manoukian, O. H. Ateshian, Arshag D. Mahdesian, editor of "The New Armenia," Bedros A. Keljik and D. K. Varzhabedian.


The poems that make up the first part of this volume were published by Roberts Brothers in 1896. They were well received, as the press comment in the Appendix will show. The book has been long out of print. This new and enlarged edition has been privately printed in order that the entire proceeds might go to the relief fund.

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INTRODUCTION.

RMENIAN poetry is so full of allusions to Vartan, Avarair, Haig, and Thorkom or Togarmah, as well as to the Garden of Eden, that a few preliminary notes are necessary by way of explanation.

Armenia is a mountainous region of Western Asia, lying around Mount Ararat, and containing the sources of the Tigris, Euphrates, and Araxes rivers. It is south of the Caucasus Mountains, between the Black, Caspian, and Mediterranean seas. According to tradition, it was the site of the Garden of Eden.

Armenia was the seat of one of the most ancient civilizations of the globe. Its people were contemporary with the Assyrians and Babylonians. They are of Aryan race, and of pure Caucasian blood.

Their origin is lost in the mists of antiquity. According to their own tradition, they are the descendants of Thorkom, or Togarmah, a grandson of Japhet, who settled in Armenia after the Ark rested on Ararat. They call themselves Haik, and their country Haiasdan, after Haig, the son of Togarmah, one of their greatest kings. In the earliest days of recorded his-

tory, we find them occupying their present home. They are referred to by Herodotus. Xenophon describes their manners and customs much as they still exist. In the Bible it is mentioned that the sons of Sennacherib escaped "into the land of Armenia." Ezekiel also refers to Armenia, under the name of Togarmah, as furnishing Tyre with horses and mules, animals for which it is still famous; and "the Kingdom of Ararat" is one of the nations summoned by Jeremiah to aid in the destruction of Babylon.

Tradition relates that Christianity was preached in Armenia early in the first century, by the Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew. It is historic fact that in A. D. 276 the king and the whole nation became Christian, under the preaching of Saint Gregory, called "the Illuminator." The Armenian Church is thus the oldest national Christian church in the world.

As a Christian nation whose lot has been cast beyond the frontiers of Christendom, the Armenians have had to suffer constant persecution, — in early times from the Persian fire-worshippers, in later centuries from the Mohammedans. Since the withdrawal of the Crusaders, to whom they alone of Asiatic nations gave aid and co-operation, the Armenians have been at the mercy of the surrounding heathen peoples. Their country has been invaded successively by the Caliphs of Bagdad, the Sultans of Egypt, the Khans of Tartary, the Shahs of Persia, and the Ottoman Turks. All these invasions were accompanied by fierce persecutions and great barbarities; but the Armenians have held tenaciously to their faith for more than fifteen hundred years.

In the middle of the fifth century Armenia had already lost its national independence. It was ruled by feudal chiefs and princes who were subject to the King of Persia. The Persians at this time were aiming at the conquest and conversion of the world. In A. D. 450 the Persian King sent a letter to the Armenian princes, setting forth the excellence of fire-worship and the foolishness of Christianity, and formally summoning Armenia to embrace fire-worship. A great council was called, in which bishops and laymen sat together, and a reply of unanimous refusal was drawn up. Eghiché, an Armenian historian of the fifth century, one of the bishops who signed the refusal, has preserved in his history the text of this remarkable document. First they answered at considerable length the arguments of the Persian King against Christianity. In conclusion they said : —

“ From this faith no one can move us, — neither angels nor men ; neither sword, nor fire, nor water, nor any deadly punishment. If you leave us our faith, we will accept no other lord in place of you ; but we will accept no God in place of Jesus Christ : there is no other God beside him. If, after this great confession, you ask anything more of us, lo, we are before you, and our lives are in your power. From you, torments ; from us, submission ; your sword, our necks. We are not better than those who have gone before us, who gave up their goods and their lives for this testimony.”

The King of Persia was as much amazed as enraged by the boldness of this reply ; for Armenia was a small country, and stood alone, without allies, against the vast power of Persia. A Persian army of 200,000 men was

sent into Armenia. The battle was fought on the plain of Avarair, under Mount Ararat. The much smaller force of the Armenians was defeated, and their leader, Vartan, was killed. But the obstinate resistance offered by rich and poor — men, women, and children — convinced the King of Persia that he could never make fire-worshippers of the Armenians. As the old historian quaintly expresses it, “The swords of the slayers grew dull, but their necks were not weary.” Even the high-priest of fire saw that the Persians had undertaken an impossibility, and said to the Persian King : —

“These people have put on Christianity, not like a garment, but like their flesh and blood. Men who do not dread fetters, nor fear torments, nor care for their property, and, what is worst of all, who choose death rather than life, — who can stand against them?”

This battle was the Armenian Marathon, and the national songs are full of allusions to it. To-day, after fifteen hundred years, the mountaineers of the Caucasus, at their festivals, still drink the health of Vartan next after that of the Catholicos, or head of their church. From time immemorial it has been the custom in Armenian schools to celebrate the anniversary of the battle with songs and recitations, and to wreath the picture of Vartan with red flowers. Of late years this celebration has been forbidden by the Russian and Turkish governments.

In the minds of the common people, all sorts of picturesque superstitions still cluster around that battlefield. A particular kind of red flowers grow there, that are found nowhere else, and it is believed that they sprang from the blood of the Christian army. A

species of antelope, with a pouch on its breast secreting a fragrant musk, is supposed to have acquired this peculiarity by browsing on grass wet with the same blood. It is also believed that at Avarair the nightingales all sing, "Vartan, Vartan!"

The Armenians, according to their own histories and traditions, enjoyed four periods of national independence, under four different dynasties, extending over about 3,000 years. The ruins of Ani and other great cities still testify to their former power and splendor. It is now many centuries, however, since they lost their political independence; and their country has been little more than a battle-ground for rival invaders. Armenia, an Asiatic Poland, was long ago divided between Russia, Persia and Turkey.

By Article 61 of the Treaty of Berlin, in 1878, the Armenians in Turkey were placed under the protection of the European powers; but the jealousy of the powers among themselves has prevented any effective protection from being given. There were frightful massacres of the Armenians in 1894-96 by order of the Sultan Abdul Hamid. In 1908, the Armenians, in common with the other subject nationalities in Turkey, enjoyed a brief time of sunshine when constitutional government was proclaimed; but the old oppressions soon began again, and they culminated in the unparalleled cruelties of 1915-16. It is not necessary here to go into the harrowing details; they have been spread broadcast in the press.

The excuse put forward by the Turks—the claim that there was a dangerous Armenian revolution impending—was a mere pretext. Turkish oppression

was such that it would have justified a revolution a thousand times over, if there had been any chance of success; but there was none. The Turks knew it; most of the Armenians knew it; and therefore the Patriarch of Constantinople and the representative Armenians in Turkey disapproved of the revolutionary propaganda that was carried on by some of the younger men, mainly in America and Europe. Only a handful of the Armenians in Turkey had anything to do with it. And this was made the pretext for giving the men of a whole nation over to slaughter, and the women to outrage and starvation!

It was no outburst of popular fanaticism, but a coldly premeditated crime, carried out by orders from Constantinople, ruthlessly and systematically, as a political measure. In the midst of the massacre, when a Red Cross nurse begged a high Turkish official to spare the children, his answer was, "Women have no business to meddle in politics!"

And what kind of people were thus given over to destruction? Dr. James L. Barton, secretary of the American Board of Foreign Missions, and former president of Euphrates College in Turkey, says:

"I know the Armenians to be, by inheritance, religious, industrious and faithful. They are the Anglo-Saxons of Eastern Turkey. They are not inferior in mental ability to any race on earth. I say this after eight years' connection with Euphrates College, which has continually from 550 to 625 Armenians upon its list of students, and after superintending schools which have 4,000 more of them."

The Hon. Andrew D. White says: "It is one of the finest races in the world, physically, morally and intellectually. If I were asked to name the most desirable races to be added by immigration to the American population, I would name among the very first the Armenian."

Lord Bryce says: "They are a strong race, not only with vigorous nerves and sinews, physically active and energetic, but also of conspicuous brain power. Among all those who dwell in Western Asia they stand first, with a capacity for intellectual and moral progress, as well as with a natural tenacity of will and purpose, beyond that of all their neighbors—not merely of Turks, Tartars, Kurds and Persians, but also of Russians.

"Thus they have held a very important place among the inhabitants of Western Asia ever since the sixth century. If you look into the annals of the East Roman or Byzantine Empire, you will find that most of the men who rose to eminence in its service as generals or statesmen during the early middle ages were of Armenian stock. So was it also after the establishment of the Turkish dominion in Europe. Many of the ablest men in the Turkish service have been Armenians by birth or extraction. The same is true of the Russian service."

Lamartine calls the Armenians "the Swiss of the East." Dulaurier compares them to the Dutch.

Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop, the famous traveler, says: "They are the most capable, energetic, enterprising and pushing race in Western Asia, physically superior and intellectually acute, and, above all, they are a race which can be raised in all respects

to our own level. . . . Their shrewdness and aptitude for business are remarkable, and whatever exists of commercial enterprise in Asia Minor is almost altogether in their hands."

After teaching among them for thirty-five years, Dr. Cyrus Hamlin wrote: "The Armenians are a noble race." Dr. Grace N. Kimball, who lived for years in the heart of Armenia, calls them "a race full of enterprise and the spirit of advancement, much like ourselves in characteristics, and full of possibilities of every kind." So says the Rev. Frederick D. Greene, who was born and brought up among them.

Miss Florence E. Fensham, Dean for years of the American College for Girls at Constantinople, told me that she had found the Armenian girls among her students not only able, but very faithful and trustworthy.

H. F. B. Lynch says: "The Armenian people may be included in the small number of races who have shown themselves capable of the highest culture."

Speaking of the importance of spreading Western progressive ideas in the East, he says:

"In the Armenians we have a people who are peculiarly adapted to be the intermediaries of the new dispensation. They profess our religion, are familiar with some of our best ideals, and assimilate each new product of European culture with an avidity and thoroughness which no other race between India and the Mediterranean has given any evidence of being able to rival. These capacities they have made manifest under the greatest disadvantages. . . .

“If I were asked what characteristics distinguish the Armenians from other Orientals, I should be disposed to lay most stress on a quality known in popular speech as *grit*. It is this quality to which they owe their preservation as a people, and they are not surpassed in this respect by any European nation. Their intellectual capacities are supported by a solid foundation of character, and, unlike the Greeks, but like the Germans, their nature is averse to superficial methods; they become absorbed in their tasks and plumb them deep. . . . These tendencies are naturally accompanied by forethought and balance; and they have given the Armenian his pre-eminence in commercial affairs. He is not less clever than the Greek; but he sees farther.”

Rev. Edwin M. Bliss says, with truth: “Those who know the race most widely and most intimately esteem it the most highly.”

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, who was president of the Friends of Armenia, wrote:

“Some Americans have been prejudiced against Armenians by contact with the demoralized Armenians of Constantinople. But in Constantinople corruption extends to all nationalities. Ubcini draws a very just distinction between the Armenians of Constantinople and the Levantine ports and the Armenians of Tauris or Erzerum, the cradle of the race, where the independent and chivalrous character of the people has remained comparatively little changed by the lapse of ages. The contrast is as great as between the enervated Greeks of Phanar and the hardy Greek mountaineers of Epirus and Macedonia. The

bulk of the Armenians are primitive and hard-working agriculturists, living in the interior, and what Lord Byron said of them years ago holds good to-day: 'It would perhaps be difficult to find in the annals of a nation less crime than in those of this people, whose virtues are those of peace, and whose vices are the result of the oppression it has undergone.'"

When the recent terrible events began, the Armenians who could fled over the frontier. Refugees by hundreds of thousands are crowded together in Russia, in Egypt, in Greece, destitute of everything, and perishing like flies. The need is desperate, and on a colossal scale. Contributions for the relief fund should be sent to Charles R. Crane, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City.



ARMENIAN POEMS.

LITTLE LAKE.

BEDROS TOURIAN, the son of an Armenian blacksmith of Scutari, was born in 1851. He lived in great poverty, and died of consumption in 1872. He left a number of dramas and poems that enjoy a great popularity among his countrymen.



HY dost thou lie in hushed surprise,
Thou little lonely mere?
Did some fair woman wistfully
Gaze in thy mirror clear?

Or are thy waters calm and still
Admiring the blue sky,
Where shining cloudlets, like thy foam,
Are drifting softly by?

Sad little lake, let us be friends!
I too am desolate;
I too would fain, beneath the sky,
In silence meditate.

As many thoughts are in my mind
As wavelets o'er thee roam ;
As many wounds are in my heart
As thou hast flakes of foam.

But if heaven's constellations all
Should drop into thy breast,
Thou still wouldst not be like my soul, —
A flame-sea without rest.

There, when the air and thou are calm,
The clouds let fall no showers ;
The stars that rise there do not set,
And fadeless are the flowers.

Thou art my queen, O little lake !
For e'en when ripples thrill
Thy surface, in thy quivering depths
Thou hold'st me, trembling, still.

Full many have rejected me :
“ What has he but his lyre ? ”
“ He trembles, and his face is pale ;
His life must soon expire ! ”

None said, “ Poor child, why pines he thus ?
If he beloved should be,
Haply he might not die, but live, —
Live, and grow fair to see.”

None sought the boy's sad heart to read,
Nor in its depths to look.
They would have found it was a fire,
And not a printed book !

Nay, ashes now ! a memory !
Grow stormy, little mere,
For a despairing man has gazed
Into thy waters clear !



WISHES FOR ARMENIA.



WHEN bright dews fall on leaf and flower,
 And stars light up the skies,
 Then tears and sparks commingled
 Burst forth from my dim-eyes.
 Forget thee, O Armenia !
 Nay, rather may I be
 Transformed into a cypress dark,
 And so give shade to thee !

The starry sky no comfort brings :
 To me it seems a veil
 Strewn with the tears that Ararat
 Sheds from his summit pale.
 O graves ! O ruins ! to my soul
 Your memory is as dear
 As to the lover's thirsting heart
 The maiden's first love-tear.
 And shall my spirit after death
 Oblivious be of you ?
 Nay, but become a flood of tears,
 And cover you with dew !

Not sword nor chains, abysses deep
 Nor precipices fell,
 Not thunder's roll, nor lightning's flash,
 Nor funeral torch and knell —

Not all of these, 'neath death's dark stone
Can ever hide from me
The glowing memories of the past,
Our days of liberty.
Forget you? Ne'er will I forget,
O glorious days of yore !
Rather may I be changed to fire
And bring you back once more !

When twinkle pale the stars at dawn,
When dewy buds unclose,
And tenderly the nightingale
Is singing to the rose,
All Nature's harmonies, alas !
Can ne'er give back to me
The sighs that sound where cypress boughs
Are moaning like the sea.
Forget you, black and bitter days?
No, never ! but instead
Rather may I be turned to blood,
And make your darkness red !

Armenia's mountains dark may smile,
Siberia's ice may smoke,
But stern, unbending spirits still
Press on my neck the yoke.
Inflexible and cold are they ;
When feeling surges high,
And I would speak, they stifle down
My free soul's bitter cry.

Forget thee, justice? Never !
But ere my life departs,
Rather may I become a sword,
And make thee pierce men's hearts!

When e'en the rich man and the priest
A patriot's ardor feel,
And when Armenian hearts at length
Are stirred with love and zeal —
When free-souled sons Armenia bears,
These days of coldness past,
And fires of love and brotherhood
Are lighted up at last —
Shall I forget thee then, my lyre?
Ah, no ! but when I die
Rather may I become thy voice,
And o'er Armenia sigh !



TO LOVE.



GALAXY of glances bright,
 A sweet bouquet of smiles,
 A crucible of melting words
 Bewitched me with their wiles !

I wished to live retired, to love
 The flowers and bosky glades,
 The blue sky's lights, the dew of morn,
 The evening's mists and shades ;

To scan my destiny's dark page,
 In thought my hours employ,
 And dwell in meditation deep
 And visionary joy.

Then near me stirred a breath that seemed
 A waft of Eden's air,
 The rustle of a maiden's robe,
 A tress of shining hair.

I sought to make a comrade dear
 Of the transparent brook.
 It holds no trace of memory ;
 When in its depths I look,

I find there floating, clear and pale,
My face ! Its waters hold
No other secret in their breast
Than wavelets manifold.

I heard a heart's ethereal throb ;
It whispered tenderly :
" Dost thou desire a heart ? " it said.
" Beloved, come to me ! "

I wished to love the zephyr soft
That breathes o'er fields of bloom ;
It woundeth none, — a gentle soul
Whose secret is perfume.

So sweet it is, it has the power
To nurse a myriad dreams ;
To mournful spirits, like the scent
Of paradise it seems.

Then from a sheaf of glowing flames
To me a whisper stole :
It murmured low, " Dost thou desire
To worship a pure soul ? "

I wished to make the lyre alone
My heart's companion still,
To know it as a loving friend,
And guide its chords at will.

But she drew near me, and I heard
A whisper soft and low:
"Thy lyre is a cold heart," she said,
"Thy love is only woe."

My spirit recognized her then;
She beauty was, and fire,
Pure as the stream, kind as the breeze,
And faithful as the lyre.

My soul, that from the path had erred,
Spread wide its wings to soar,
And bade the life of solitude
Farewell forevermore.

A galaxy of glances bright,
A sweet bouquet of smiles,
A crucible of melting words
Bewitched me with their wiles!



NEW DARK DAYS.



THE centuries of bloodshed
 Are past, those cruel years ;
 But there is still one country
 Whose mountains drip with tears,
 Whose river-banks are blood-stained,
 Whose mourning loads the breeze, —
 A land of dreary ruins,
 Ashes, and cypress-trees.

No more for the Armenian
 A twinkling star appears ;
 His spirit's flowers have faded
 Beneath a rain of tears.
 Ceased are the sounds of harmless mirth,
 The dances hand in hand ;
 Only the weapon of the Koord
 Shines freely through the land.

The bride's soft eyes are tearful,
 Behind her tresses' flow,
 Lest the Koord's shout should interrupt
 Love's whisper, sweet and low.
 Red blood succeeds love's rosy flush ;
 Slain shall the bridegroom be,
 And by the dastard Koords the bride
 Be led to slavery.

The peasant sows, but never reaps ;
He hungers evermore ;
He eats his bread in bitterness,
And tastes of anguish sore.
Lo ! tears and blood together
Drop from his pallid face ;
And these are our own brothers,
Of our own blood and race !

The forehead pure, the sacred veil
Of the Armenian maid,
Shall rude hands touch, and hell's hot breath
Her innocence invade ?
They do it as men crush a flower,
By no compunction stirred ;
They slaughter an Armenian
As they would kill a bird.

O roots of vengeance, heroes' bones,
Who fell of old in fight,
Have ye all crumbled into dust,
Nor sent one shoot to light ?
Oh, of that eagle nation
Now trampled by the Koord,
Is nothing left but black-hued crows,
And moles with eyes obscured ?

Give back our sisters' roses,
Our brothers who have died,
The crosses of our churches,
Our nation's peace and pride !

O Sultan, we demand of thee
And with our hearts entreat —
Give us protection from the Koord,
Or arms his arms to meet !¹



WHAT ARE YOU, LOVE?



WHAT are you, love? A flame from heaven?
A radiant smile are you?
The heaven has not your eyes' bright gleams,
The heaven has not their blue.

The rose has not your snowy breast ;
In the moon's face we seek
In vain the rosy flush that dyes
Your soft and blushing cheek.

By night you smile upon the stars,
And on the amorous moon,
By day upon the waves, the flowers —
Why not on one alone?

But, though I pray to you with tears,
With tears and bitter sighs,
You will not deign me yet one glance
Cast by your shining eyes.

O love, are you a mortal maid,
Or angel formed of light?
The spring rose and the radiant moon
Envy your beauty bright ;

And when your sweet and thrilling voice
Is heard upon the air,
In cypress depths the nightingale
Is silent in despair.

Would I, a zephyr, might caress
Your bright brow's dreams in sleep,
Breathe gently on your lips, and dry
Your tears, if you should weep !

Or would that in your garden fair
A weeping rose I grew ;
And when you came resplendent there
At morning with the dew,

I'd give fresh color to your cheek
That makes the rose look pale,
Shed on your breast my dew, and there
My latest breath exhale.

Oh, would I were a limpid brook!
If softly you drew nigh,
And smiled into my mirror clear,
My blue waves would run dry.


Oh, would I were a sunbeam bright,
'T' make you seem more fair,
Touching your face, and dying soon
Amid your fragrant hair !

But, if you love another,
His gravestone may I be !
Then you would linger near me,
Your tears would fall on me ;

Your sighs would wander o'er me,
Sighs for his early doom.
To touch you, O beloved,
I must become a tomb !



I HAVE LOVED THEE.

T was the hour of dew and light ;
In heaven a conflagration cold
Of roses burned, instead of clouds ;
There was a rain of pearls and gold.

Then deep within a flowering grove
I saw thee, love, reclined at ease,
And thou wast languishing and pale,
And sighing like a summer breeze,

Plucking a blossom's leaves apart
With fingers fair as lilies are ;
Thine eyes, the temples of love's fire,
Were fixed upon the heavens afar.

I marvelled that thy fingers soft,
Wherein the haughty rose was pressed,
Had power to pluck her leaves away
And scatter them upon thy breast.

A strange new heaven shone within
Thine eyes, so dark and languishing ;
A heaven where, instead of stars,
Arrows of fire were glittering.

Ah, thou hast made of me a slave
To one bright glance, one word of thine !
The rays thy soul sheds, cruel maid,
Become as fetters laid on mine.

Oh, leave my heart, from me depart !
I for my queen desire not thee ;
Thy breast is like the rose's leaf,
Thy heart as granite hard to me.

Thou knowest naught, thou fragrant one,
Save wounds in tender hearts to make,
Happy when thine adorer's breast
Bleeds in profusion for thy sake.

When, lonely in a grove's deep shade,
I weep, and all my sad heart grieves,
Lo, thou art there ! Thou findest me.
Thou speakest to me through the leaves.

When in the swift and shining stream
I seek oblivion of thy face,
Thou findest me, and from the waves
Thou smilest up with witching grace.

When to the rocks and mountains steep
To break my heart and lyre I flee,
Thou murmurest ever in the wind
That thou hadst never love for me.

I will embrace the frozen earth,
And hide from thee in dreamless sleep.
The dark grave is a virgin too ;
Is any other heart so deep ?

IN MEMORIAM OF VARTAN LUTFIAN.



OUR two devoted hearts were joined and bound
 By streaming rays, with heaven's own light
 aglow ;
 We read each other's souls like open books,
 Where 'neath each word lay depths of love and woe.

Dost thou remember, on Mount Chamlajà,
 In the dark cypress shade where mourners sigh,
 How we two mused, and watched the Bosphorus,
 Stamboul's blue girdle, and the cloudless sky?

We sat in silence ; any uttered word
 Would but have marred our souls' infinity.
 There like two flames we burned without a sound,
 And shone upon each other, pale to see.

Like sad black moths that haunt the cypresses,
 Our souls drank in the shadow and the gloom,
 Drank endless sorrow, drank the dark-hued milk
 Of hopelessness and of the silent tomb.

Deeply we drank, and long ; but thou didst drain
 The darksome cup that to thy lips was given,
 Till thou wast drunken with it, and became
 Thenceforth a pale and silent son of heaven.

Thy paleness grieved my soul ; thy last faint look,
Turned on me ere thy spirit did depart,
Has fixed forevermore, O friend beloved,
• The memory of thee in my aching heart.

Oh, art thou happy or unhappy there ?
Send me a message by an angel's wing !
Tedious, alas ! and weary is this world,
Mother of griefs and bitter sorrowing.

If in that world there is a shady tree,
And a clear brook that softly murmurs near ;
If there are found affection and pure love,
If the soul breathes a free, fresh atmosphere —

This very day would I put off this life,
This poor soiled garment should to dust return.
Ah, Vartan, answer ! In the unknown land,
Say, hast thou found the things for which I yearn ?



S H E.



WERE not the rose's hue like that which glows
On her soft cheek, who would esteem the
rose?

Were not the tints of heaven like those that lie
In her blue eyes, whose gaze would seek the sky?

Were not the maiden innocent and fair,
How would men learn to turn to God in prayer?



LITTLE GIFTS.



HE was alone. I brought a gift —
A rose, surpassing fair ;
And when she took it from my hand
She blushed with pleasure there.

Compared with her, how poor and pale
The red rose seemed to be !
My gift was nothing to the kiss
My lady gave to me.



MY GRIEF.



O thirst with sacred longings,
 And find the springs all dry,
 And in my flower to fade, — not this
 The grief for which I sigh.

Ere yet my cold, pale brow has been
 Warmed by an ardent kiss,
 To rest it on a couch of earth, —
 My sorrow is not this.

Ere I embrace a live bouquet
 Of beauty, smiles and fire,
 The cold grave to embrace, — not this
 Can bitter grief inspire.

Ere a sweet, dreamful sleep has lulled
 My tempest-beaten brain,
 To slumber in an earthy bed, —
 Ah, this is not my pain.

My country is forlorn, a branch
 Withered on life's great tree ;
 To die unknown, ere succoring her, —
 This only grieveth me !

COMPLAINTS.

This poem and the next were written on successive days, a short time before TOURIAN'S death.



AREWELL to thee, O God, to thee, O sun,
 Ye twain that shine above my soul on high!
 My spirit from the earth must pass away;
 I go to add a star to yonder sky.

What are the stars but curses of sad souls,—
 Souls guiltless, but ill-fated, that take flight
 To burn the brow of heaven? They only serve
 To make more strong the fiery armor bright

Of God, the source of lightnings! But, ah me!
 What words are these I speak? With thunder smite,
 O God, and shatter the presumptuous thoughts
 That fill me, — giant thoughts and infinite,

Thoughts of an atom in thy universe,
 Whose spirit dares defy its mortal bars,
 And seeks to dive into the depth of heaven,
 And climb the endless stairway of the stars!

Hail to thee, God, thou Lord of trembling man,
 Of waves and flowers, of music and of light!
 Thou who hast taken from my brow the rose,
 And from my soul the power of soaring flight;

Thou who hast spread a cloud before mine eyes,
And given these deathly flutterings to my heart,
And bidd'st me smile upon thee on the brink
Of the dark tomb, to which I must depart !

Doubtless thou hast for me a future life
Of boundless light, of fragrance, prayer, and praise ;
But, if my last breath here below must end
Speechless and mute, breathed out in mist and haze —

Ah, then, instead of any heavenly life
To greet me when my earthly span is o'er,
May I become a pallid lightning flash.
Cling to thy name, and thunder evermore !

Let me become a curse, and pierce thy side !
Yea, let me call thee "God the pitiless !"
Ah me, I tremble ! I am pale as death ;
My heart foams like a hell of bitterness !

I am a sigh that moans among the sad,
Dark cypresses, — a withered leaf the strife
Of autumn winds must quickly bear away.
Ah, give me but one spark. one spark of life !

What ! after this brief, transitory dream
Must I embrace for aye the grave's cold gloom ?
O God, how dark a destiny is mine !
Was it writ out with lees from the black tomb ?

Oh, grant my soul one particle of fire !
I would still love, would live, and ever live !
Stars, drop into my soul ! A single spark
Of life to your ill-fated lover give !

Spring offers not one rose to my pale brow,
The sunbeams lend me not one smile of light.
Night is my bier, the stars my torches are,
The moon weeps ever in the depths of night.

Some men there are with none to weep for them ;
Therefore God made the moon. In shadows dim
Of coming death, man has but two desires, —
First, life ; then some one who shall mourn for him.

In vain for me the stars have written " Love,"
The bulbul taught it me with silver tongue ;
In vain the zephyrs breathed it, and in vain
My image in the clear stream showed me young.

In vain the groves kept silence round about,
The secret leaves forbore to breathe or stir
Lest they should break my reveries divine ;
Ever they suffered me to dream of her.

In vain the flowers, dawn of the spring, breathed forth
Incense to my heart's altar, from the sod.
Alas, they all have mocked me ! All the world
Is nothing but the mockery of God !



REPENTANCE.



ESTERDAY, when in slumber light and chill,
Drenched in cold sweats, upon my couch
I lay,

While on my panting cheeks two roses burned
And on my brow sat mortal pallor gray, —

'Then on my soul, athirst for love, there fell
My mother's sobs, who wept beside my bed.
When I unclosed my dim and weary eyes,
I saw her tears of pity o'er me shed.

I felt upon my face my mother's kiss,
A sacred last remembrance, on death's shore ;
All her great sorrow in that kiss was breathed —
And it was I who caused her anguish sore !

Ah, then a tempest rose and shook my soul,
A storm of bitter grief, that blasts and sears ;
'Then I poured forth that torrent dark. My God,
Forgive me ! I had seen my mother's tears.



LIBERTY.

MICHAEL GHAZARIAN NALBANDIAN was born in Russian Armenia in 1830; graduated at the University of St. Petersburg with the title of Professor; was active as a teacher, author, and journalist; fell under suspicion for his political opinions, and underwent a rigorous imprisonment of three years, after which he was exiled to the province of Sarakov, and died there in 1866 of lung disease contracted in prison. It is forbidden in Russia to possess a picture of Nalbandian; but portraits of him, with his poem on "Liberty" printed around the margin, are circulated secretly.



WHEN God, who is forever free,
Breathed life into my earthly frame, —
From that first day, by His free will
When I a living soul became. —
A babe upon my mother's breast,
Ere power of speech was given to me,
Even then I stretched my feeble arms
Forth to embrace thee, Liberty!

Wrapped round with many swaddling bands,
All night I did not cease to weep,
And in the cradle, restless still,
My cries disturbed my mother's sleep.
"O mother!" in my heart I prayed,
"Unbind my arms and leave me free!"
And even from that hour I vowed
To love thee ever. Liberty!

When first my faltering tongue was freed,
And when my parents' hearts were stirred
With thrilling joy, to hear their son
Pronounce his first clear-spoken word,
"Papa, Mamma," as children use,
Were not the names first said by me ;
The first word on my childish lips
Was thy great name, O Liberty !

" Liberty ! " answered from on high
The sovereign voice of Destiny :
" Wilt thou enroll thyself henceforth
A soldier true of Liberty ?
The path is thorny all the way,
And many trials wait for thee ;
Too strait and narrow is this world
For him who loveth Liberty."

" Freedom ! " I answered, " on my head
Let fire descend and thunder burst ;
Let foes against my life conspire,
Let all who hate thee do their worst :
I will be true to thee till death ;
Yea, even upon the gallows tree
The last breath of a death of shame
Shall shout thy name, O Liberty !"



DAYS OF CHILDHOOD.



DAYS of my childhood, like a dream
Ye fledted, to return no more.
Ah, happy days and free from care,
Ye brought but joy in passing o'er !

Then Science came, and on the world
He gazed with grave, observant looks ;
All things were analyzed and weighed,
And all my time was given to books.

When to full consciousness I woke,
My country's woes weighed down my heart.
Apollo gave me then his lyre,
To bid my gloomy cares depart.

Alas ! that lyre beneath my touch
Sent forth a grave and tearful voice,
Sad as my soul ; no single chord
Would breathe a note that said " Rejoice ! "

Ah, then at last I felt, I knew,
There never could be joy for me,
While speechless, sad, in alien hands,
My country languished to be free.

Apollo, take thy lyre again,
And let its voice, amid the groves,
Sound for some man who may in peace
Devote his life to her he loves !

To the arena I will go,
But not with lyre and flowery phrase ;
I will protest and cry aloud,
And strive with darkness all my days.

What boots to-day a mournful lyre ?
To-day we need the sword of strife.
Upon the foeman sword and fire, —
Be that the watchword of my life !



ARMENIA.

ARCHBISHOP KHORÈNE NAR BEY DE LUSIGNAN was a descendant of the last dynasty of Armenian kings. Nar Bey studied at the celebrated convent of the Mechitarists in Venice, but early left the Roman Catholic for the Armenian Church. He became an Archbishop, and was elected Patriarch of Constantinople, but declined to serve. He was an eloquent preacher, and a distinguished poet, author, and linguist. Nar Bey was a friend of Lamartine, whose poems he translated into Armenian. He was one of the Armenian delegates to the Berlin Congress of 1878. He died at Constantinople in 1892, poisoned, it was commonly believed, by the Turkish government, for political reasons.



F a sceptre of diamond, a glittering crown,
 Were mine, at thy feet I would lay them both
 down,
 Queen of queens, O Armenia!

If a mantle of purple were given to me,
 A mantle for kings, I would wrap it round thee,
 Poor Armenia, my mother!

If the fire of my youth and its sinews of steel
 Could return, I would offer its rapture and zeal
 All to thee, my Armenia!

Had a lifetime of ages been granted to me,
I had given it gladly and freely to thee,
 O my life, my Armenia !

Were I offered the love of a maid lily-fair,
I would choose thee alone for my joy and my care,
 My one love. my Armenia !

Were I given a crown of rich pearls, I should prize,
Far more than their beauty, one tear from thine eyes,
 O my weeping Armenia !

If freedom unbounded were proffered to me,
I would choose still to share thy sublime slavery,
 O my mother. Armenia !

Were I offered proud Europe, to take or refuse,
Thee alone, with thy griefs on thy head, would I
 choose
 For my country, Armenia !

Might I choose from the world where my dwelling
 should be,
I would say, Still thy ruins are Eden to me,
 My beloved Armenia !

Were I given a seraph's celestial lyre,
I would sing with my soul, to its chords of pure fire,
 Thy dear name, my Armenia !

THE WANDERING ARMENIAN TO THE
CLOUD.



CLOUD, whither dost thou haste away
So swiftly through the air?
Dost thou to some far-distant land
An urgent message bear?

With gloomy aspect, dark and sad,
Thou movest on through space;
Dost thou hide vengeance, or has grief
O'ershadowed thy bright face?

Did a wind come and exile thee
Far from thy heavenly home,
Like me, in homesickness and tears
Across the world to roam?

Like me, who wander now, my griefs
Sole comrades left to me,
While, longing for my fatherland,
I pine on land and sea?

Cloud, when thy heart is full of tears
Thou hast relief in rain;
When indignation brims thy breast,
Fierce lightnings tell thy pain.

Though my heart too is full, my brow
With painful thoughts oppressed,
To whom can I pour forth the griefs
That fill an exile's breast?

O cloud, thou hast no native land!
Far happier thou than I;
To north, to south thou floatest free,
At home in all the sky.

But I, at every step, shed tears,
In sadness and in gloom;
Each step away from fatherland
Is nearer to my tomb!



TO MY SISTER.



FAIN would I be to thee, my sister sweet,
Like the bright cloud beneath Aurora's feet.
A pedestal to help thee mount on high
Into the blessed peace of the blue sky.

The zephyr would I be, to which is given
To waft the rose's fragrance up to heaven,
That thy pure soul, amid life's stress and strain,
Might not exhale its perfume sweet in vain.

Fain would I be to thee as crystal dew
Of morn, that doth the young flower's sap renew.
And with its vapor veils her from the sun,
Lest thy fresh heart be seared ere day is done.

Fain would I be to thee a nightingale,
Telling within thine ear so sweet a tale ;
No meaner strain thine eyes with sleep should dim,
And thou shouldst wake to hear a sacred hymn.

Fain would I be to thee a broad-armed tree
That casts wide shadow on the sultry lea,
And cheers from far the wandering traveller's view ;
So would my love shed o'er thee shade and dew.

Fain would I be to thee a refuge sure,
As 'neath the thatch the swallow builds secure.
A humble roof, it yet the rain can ward ;
So I from storms thine innocence would guard.

Ah ! when to thee this world, as yet unknown,
Its barren hopes, its bitterness hath shown,
Fain, fain would I bring comfort in that hour
To thy sad heart. Oh, would I had the power !



GENTLE BREEZE OF ARMENIA.



HERE art thou, sweet and gentle breeze,
 Breeze of my fatherland?
 The spring has come, and tender flowers
 Bud forth on every hand;
 The warm sun smiles upon the world,
 The skies are soft and blue;
 Ah, zephyr of Armenia,
 Wilt thou not greet us too?

My country's stars I see no more
 Beneath these alien skies,
 And when the radiant spring returns,
 The sad tears fill my eyes.
 The sun for exiles has no light,
 Though soft it shine and bland.
 Where art thou, oh, where art thou,
 Breeze of my fatherland?

Where art thou, breeze of Ararat?
 Our sad hearts long for thee,
 For poplar trees of Armavir
 That whisper pleasantly.
 Spring in whose bosom shines no flower
 Sprung from Armenian earth,
 To the Armenian is not spring,
 But winter's cold and dearth.

Behold, all Nature calls on-us,
With invitation glad,
To celebrate her victory
O'er Winter, dark and sad.
The ice has melted, and the flowers
Awaken and expand ;
Where are you, breezes sweet and soft,
Airs of the fatherland ?

Out of long, gloomy winters,
The winters of the past,
Oh, blow for the Armenians.
And bring us spring at last !
Awake exalted memories
Of glorious deeds and grand !
Alas, hast thou forgotten us,
Breeze of the fatherland ?

Hast thou forgot our tearful eyes,
Our bleeding hearts that ache ?
Wilt thou not mingle in our griefs,
Lamenting for our sake ?
Why should our sad lyre sob in tears,
In bitter tears like these,
And thou not come to thrill its chords,
O soft Armenian breeze ?

Oh, from our country's ruins
Waft to us through the air
Dust of our glorious ancestors,
Whose bones are buried there !

Life-giving breeze, Armenian breeze
From distant Edens blown,
Oh, bring to us our fathers' sighs,
To whisper with our own!

One token bring from home, one drop
From the Araxes' shore!
Let tears and smiles with memories blend —
Thoughts of our sires of yore.
Kiss the Armenian's brow and breast;
Wake patriot ardor bold!
Where art thou, O life-bringing breeze
Our sires inhaled of old?

Power to Armenian cymbals give,
And in our souls inspire
The zeal of Coghtn's ancient bards,
Their fervor and their fire!
Imbue Armenian hearts afresh
With courage firm and true;
Ah, zephyr of Armenia,
Awake our hope anew!



LET US LIVE ARMENIANS.

LIVE as Armenians, brethren, in this world !
 That name to us do history's pages give ;
 The heavens above salute us by that name :
 Then, brethren, as Armenians let us live !

Armenians we ! That hero was our sire
 Who taught mankind for freedom first to strive ;¹
 He gave us for our portion a great name :
 Then, brethren, as Armenians let us live !

Our land is holy ; on its sacred soil
 God walked, what time he Adam forth did drive ;²
 Our language he devised ; he spoke it first :
 Then, brethren, as Armenians let us live !

We have one cradle with the human race ;
 Our land salvation to the world did give ;
 Faith's earliest altar was Mount Ararat :
 Then, brethren, as Armenians let us live !

¹ According to tradition, at the time of the building of the tower of Babel, Haig, the ancestor of the Armenians, rebelled against the tyranny of the Assyrian king, and forsook the work with his tribe. The constellation Orion is called by his name in the Armenian language.

² Tradition locates the Garden of Eden in Armenia, between the Euphrates and Tigris : and the Armenians believe that their language was spoken by Adam and Eve.

Noble our name is ; not on earth alone,
But in the heavens it shines forth gloriously.
The stars of valiant Haig are deathless there :
Brethren, Armenians let us ever be !

Live as Armenians ! From the past what land
So many ancient glories doth derive ?
What nation has so beautiful a home ?
Then, brethren, as Armenians let us live !

Unto what nation did the King of heaven
Send four apostles as an embassy,¹
And with what monarch did he correspond ?
Brethren, Armenians let us ever be !

Who can count o'er the names of all our saints ?
One roll of martyrs is our history ;
Our church on earth is like to heaven itself :
Brethren, Armenians let us ever be !

To us was Christ's first benediction given ;
The champions of the faith for aye were we ;
Armenia's deeds astonished earth and heaven :
Brethren, Armenians let us ever be !

Our nation, ever following the Lord,
Has borne the cross for many a century ;
No, she will not be a deserter now !
Brethren, Armenians let us ever be !

¹ The tradition is that Apgar, King of Armenia, sent messengers to Jesus, entreating him to come and cure the king of a painful malady, and offering to become a Christian. Jesus

Yes, sorrowful is life beneath the cross ;
Yes, as Armenians we with pain must strive ;
Yet wears the cross the seal of victory :
Then, brethren, as Armenians let us live !

Our home beloved, our sceptre and our crown,
With clouds are covered in obscurity :
Have hope ! the heavens yet shall give us light :
Brethren, Armenians let us ever be !

No, not forever shall our fate be sad,
Our lot, to eat and drink of misery ;
A new and happy future waits for us !
Brethren, Armenians let us ever be !

Live as Armenians, that our sons as well
May boast that they are our posterity ;
Let us do no dishonor to our name !
Brethren, Armenians let us ever be !

Live as Armenians ! Some day, over death
Armenia yet shall rise in victory.
Soon may that glad day dawn for us, O heaven !
Brethren, Armenians let us ever be !

declined to come, but promised to send some of his apostles after his death who would cure the king. This was done ; and Apgar and many of his subjects embraced Christianity.



LET US DIE ARMENIANS.

BROTHERS, we have no hope from foreigners ;
Gaze not around for aid ! Though with
good-will
The foreigner receive you as a guest,
He is an alien still.

Unmoved he sees your pain ; what matters it
Although to tears of blood your heart be grieved ?
None save Armenians feel Armenia's woes ;
Why are you still deceived ?

Rest not upon the foreigner your hope ;
Show not hard eyes your wounds, your deep distress.
Do you then look for sympathy and help ?
They mock your nakedness !

Heavy your burden is, but do you think
That foreign hands will lift it ? You are wrong.
Nay, leave the foreigner, lend brother's arm
To brother, and be strong !

Fate is your enemy ? Be not dismayed.
But show Armenian hearts, to brave her hate.
Fate cannot vanquish an heroic land
That battles against fate.

Nor swords nor chains could crush the minds and hearts
Of your great ancestors, those valiant ones.
Why are your hearts to-day so weak and faint?
Are you not heroes' sons?

Sons of those matchless heroes who of old
Upon their country's altar bled and died, —
Sons of those great Armenians whose lives
To-day are the world's pride?

Even the mighty nations of the earth
With envy view our nation's history ;
Then why, forgetting your past glory, say
To aliens, "Blest are ye"?

Forward ! Let him who has an earnest heart
Forsake the stranger, follow his brave sires !
The life of all Armenians centres round
Our faith's clear altar-fires.

Armenia's life shall not become extinct ;
The heavens are full of that life-giving flame.
While the all-conquering cross of Christ shall reign,
So long shall live her name.

Why are you fearful ? See you not, sublime
Above your heads, the shadow of the rood ?
Of old your fathers with that sacred sign
Mingled their sacred blood.

Anchor your hope, too, on the cross ! Have faith
The light will shine, since you to it are true.
It was your nation's bulwark ; be it still
Weapon and flag to you !

A nation that was faithful to the cross
Cannot be lost, though centuries roll past.
While in this world religion shall endure,
Her life shall also last.

In the great names of faith and fatherland,
Clasp hands in love, bid hate and malice flee,
Armenian brothers ! Let the nation's foe
Alone accursèd be.

Let each heart glow with love for fatherland,
Each mind your country's welfare seek alone ;
Let your least brother's pain and tears be felt
As keenly as your own.

Ah ! foreign bread can never nourish us,
And foreign water never quench our thirst ;
'Thou art our life, Armenian font, where we
Received baptism first !

For no vain hope let us deny that font,
Our nation's baptistery ! When we yield
Our breath forever, be our place of death
The sacred battlefield !

Let the same earth receive that cradled us ;
Armenians we, when life to us was given ;
Armenians let us live, Armenians die,
Armenians enter heaven !



THE FIRST GREEN LEAVES.

SCARCE are the clouds' black shadows
 Pierced by a gleam of light,
 Scarce have our fields grown dark again,
 Freed from the snow-drifts white.
 When you, with smiles all twinkling,
 Bud forth o'er hill and vale.
 O first-born leaves of spring-time,
 Hail to your beauty, hail !

Not yet to our cold meadows
 Had come Spring's guest, the swallow,
 Not yet the nightingale's sweet voice
 Had echoed from the hollow,
 When you, like joy's bright angels,
 Came swift to hill and dale.
 Fresh-budded leaves of spring-time,
 Hail to your beauty, hail !

Your tender verdant color,
 Thin stems and graceful guise,
 How sweetly do they quench the thirst
 Of eager, longing eyes !
 Afflicted souls at sight of you
 Take comfort and grow gay.
 New-budded leaves of spring-time,
 All hail to you to-day !

Come, in the dark breast of our dales
To shine, the hills between !
Come, o'er our bare and shivering trees
To cast a veil of green !
Come, to give sad-faced Nature
An aspect blithe and new !
O earliest leaves of spring-time,
All hail, all hail to you !

Come to call up, for new-born Spring,
A dawn of roses fair !
Come, and invite the breezes light
To play with your soft hair !
Say to the fragrant blossoms,
"Oh, haste ! Men long for you !"
Hail, earliest leaves of spring-time,
Young leaves so fresh and new !

Come, come, O leaves, and with sweet wings
Of hope from yonder sky
Cover the sad earth of the graves
Wherein our dear ones lie !
Weave o'er the bones so dear to us
A garland wet with dew,
Ye wings of hope's bright angels,
Young leaves so fresh and new !



DEATH OF A YOUTH OF ZEITOUN.

MUGURDITCH BESHIKTASHLIAN, a Roman Catholic Armenian, was born in 1829; was educated at the Mechitarist Convent in Venice, and was for years a professor of the Armenian language in Constantinople. In addition to his original works, he translated into Armenian many poems from other languages. It is not certain whether "A Brave Son of Armenia" is an adaptation from one of Victor Hugo's "Oriental Poems," or whether Hugo, who was an admirer of Armenian poetry, adapted it from the Armenian. Beshiktashlian died in 1868. On his gravestone are carved the lines that form the refrain of one of his most popular songs: —

"What sound, beneath the stars aflame,
So lovely as a brother's name?"



WHOM dost thou seek, sweet mother?

Come, tremble not, draw near!

Gaze on thy son's blood-streaming wounds

Without a sigh or tear.

Let Turkish mothers rend their hair;

Do thou glad news to Zeitoun bear!

As, by my cradle, thou didst soothe

With tender hand and smile

My childish form to sleep, and sing

With angel voice the while,

Lay me to rest, without a care,

And joyful news to Zeitoun bear!

Red floods are welling from my wounds,
But, mother, look around ;
See how the fierce blood-thirsty Turks
By thousands strew the ground !
Our swords devoured them, scattered there ;
'Then joyful news to Zeitoun bear !


'They smote us like a dragon,
With sudden roaring deep ;
But Zeitoun shook her rocky head,
And rolled them down the steep.
Red was the stain our rocks did wear ;
'Then joyful news to Zeitoun bear !

Our fathers' ghosts applauded ;
Our old fire is not dead !
Our slaughtered kin rejoiced to see
The blood of vengeance shed.
Mount Ararat the joy did share ;
Mother, glad news to Zeitoun bear !

'Take my last kiss, my mother,
And bear it to my love ;
A kiss, too, for my native soil,
That now my tomb must prove.
Plant thou a cross above me there,
And joyful news to Zeitoun bear !



SPRING.

OW cool and sweet, O breeze of morn,
 Thou stirrest in the air,
 Caressing soft the dewy flowers,
 The young girl's clustering hair !
 But not my country's breeze thou art.
 Blow past ! thou canst not touch my heart.

How sweetly and how soulfully
 Thou singest from the grove,
 O bird, while men admire thy voice
 In tender hours of love !
 But not my country's bird thou art.
 Sing elsewhere ! Deaf to thee my heart.

With what a gentle murmur,
 O brook, thy current flows,
 Reflecting in its mirror clear
 The maiden and the rose !
 But not my native stream thou art.
 Flow past ! thou canst not charm my heart.

Though over ruins linger
 Armenia's bird and breeze,
 And though Armenia's turbid stream
 Creeps 'mid the cypress-trees,
 Thy voice thy sighs, and from my heart.
 My country, they shall not depart !

A BRAVE SON OF ARMENIA.



HERE leaned against a gravestone
Upon a mountain steep,
A fair-haired youth of gallant mien,
Who mused in sorrow deep.

His eyes now sought the heavens,
And now the earth below.
Son of the hills and valleys,
Why dost thou sorrow so?

Dost thou desire, to soothe thee,
A vast and stormy sea,
Whose ranks of wind-stirred billows
Shall sing to comfort thee?

Or heaven's immense and wondrous vault,
Star-strewn, thine eyes to greet?
Or smiles from nature's fairest things,
The flowers, the zephyrs sweet?

Or dost thou yearn for solace
All other joys above, —
A gentle mother's kisses,
A sweetheart's tender love?

To cure thy heart's deep sorrow
What wouldst thou have, oh, what?
" My longing is for powder,
For powder and for shot ! "

WE ARE BROTHERS.

FROM glorious Nature's myriad tongues
 Though songs be breathed by lips of love,
 And though the maiden's fingers fair
 Across the thrilling harp-strings rove,
 Of all earth's sounds, there is no other
 So lovely as the name of brother.

Clasp hands, for we are brothers dear,
 Of old by tempest rent apart ;
 The dark designs of cruel Fate
 Shall fail, when heart is joined to heart.
 What sound, beneath the stars aflame,
 So lovely as a brother's name ?

And when our ancient Mother-Land
 Beholds her children side by side,
 The dews of joyful tears shall heal
 Her heart's sad wounds, so deep and wide.
 What sound, beneath the stars aflame,
 So lovely as a brother's name ?

We wept together in the past ;
 Let us unite in harmony
 And blend again our tears, our joys ;
 So shall our efforts fruitful be.
 What sound, beneath the stars aflame,
 So lovely as a brother's name ?

Together let us work and strive,
Together sow, with toil and pain,
The seed that shall, with harvest blest,
Make bright Armenia's fields again.
What sound, beneath the stars aflame,
So lovely as a brother's name?



CRADLE SONG.

RAPHAEL PATKANIAN, the most popular of Armenian poets, was born in Southern Russia in 1830. He was the son of poor parents, but both his father and grandfather had been distinguished for their poetic gifts. While at the University of Moscow, he organized a literary club among his Armenian fellow-students, and from the initials of their names formed his own pen-name of Kamar Katiba. Many of his poems were written during the Turco-Russian war, when the Russian Armenians cherished high hopes for the deliverance of Turkish Armenia from the Ottoman yoke. Patkanian died in 1892, after forty-two years of continuous activity as a teacher, author, and editor.



NIGHTINGALE, oh, leave our garden,
 Where soft dews the blossoms steep ;
 With thy litanies melodious
 Come and sing my son to sleep !
 Nay, he sleeps not for thy chanting,
 And his weeping hath not ceased.
 Come not, nightingale ! My darling
 Does not wish to be a priest.

O thou thievish, clever jackdaw,
 That in coin findest thy joy,
 With thy tales of gold and profit
 Come and soothe my wailing boy !

Nay, thy chatter does not lull him,
And his crying is not stayed.
Come not, jackdaw ! for my darling
Will not choose the merchant's trade.

Wild dove, leave the fields and pastures
Where thou grievest all day long ;
Come and bring my boy sweet slumber
With thy melancholy song !
Still he weeps. Nay, come not hither,
Plaintive songster, for I see
That he loves not lamentations,
And no mourner will he be.

Leave thy chase, brave-hearted falcon !
Haply he thy song would hear.
And the boy lay hushed, and slumbered,
With the war-notes in his ear.



THE TEARS OF ARAXES.



WALK by Mother Arax
 With faltering steps and slow,
 And memories of past ages
 Seek in the waters' flow.

But they run dark and turbid,
 And beat upon the shore
 In grief and bitter sorrow,
 Lamenting evermore.

“ Araxes ! with the fishes
 Why dost not dance in glee ?
 The sea is still far distant,
 Yet thou art sad, like me.

“ From thy proud eyes, O Mother,
 Why do the tears downpour ?
 Why dost thou haste so swiftly
 Past thy familiar shore ?

“ Make not thy current turbid ;
 Flow calm and joyously.
 Thy youth is short, fair river ;
 Thou soon wilt reach the sea.

“ Let sweet rose-hedges brighten
Thy hospitable shore,
And nightingales among them
Till morn their music pour.

“ Let ever-verdant willows
Lave in thy waves their feet,
And with their bending branches
Refresh the noonday heat.

“ Let shepherds on thy margin
Walk singing, without fear ;
Let lambs and kids seek freely
Thy waters cool and clear.”

Araxes swelled her current,
Tossed high her foaming tide,
And in a voice of thunder
Thus from her depths replied : —

“ Rash, thoughtless youth, why com'st thou
My age-long sleep to break,
And memories of my myriad griefs
Within my breast to wake ?

“ When hast thou seen a widow,
After her true-love died,
From head to foot resplendent
With ornaments of pride ?

“ For whom should I adorn me ?
Whose eyes shall I delight ?
The stranger hordes that tread my banks
Are hateful in my sight.

“ My kindred stream, impetuous Kur,
Is widowed, like to me,
But bows beneath the tyrant's yoke,
And wears it slavishly.

“ But I, who am Armenian,
My own Armenians know ;
I want no stranger bridegroom ;
A widowed stream I flow.

“ Once I, too, moved in splendor,
Adorned as is a bride
With myriad precious jewels,
My smiling banks beside.

“ My waves were pure and limpid,
And curled in rippling play ;
The morning star within them
Was mirrored till the day.

“ What from that time remaineth ?
All, all has passed away.
Which of my prosperous cities
Stands near my waves to-day ?

“ Mount Ararat doth pour me,
As with a mother's care,
From out her sacred bosom
Pure water, cool and fair.

“ Shall I her holy bounty
To hated aliens fling ?
Shall strangers' fields be watered
From good Saint Jacob's spring ?

“ For filthy Turk or Persian
Shall I my waters pour,
That they may heathen rites perform
Upon my very shore,

“ While my own sons, defenceless,
Are exiled from their home,
And, faint with thirst and hunger,
In distant countries roam?

“ My own Armenian nation
Is banished far away ;
A godless, barbarous people
Dwells on my banks to-day.

“ Shall I my hospitable shores
Adorn in festive guise
For them, or gladden with fair looks
Their wild and evil eyes?

“ Still, while my sons are exiled,
Shall I be sad, as now.
This is my heart's deep utterance,
My true and holy vow.”

No more spake Mother Arax ;
She foamed up mightily,
And, coiling like a serpent,
Wound sorrowing toward the sea.

THE ARMENIAN GIRL.

HAVE you seen the bright moon rising
 In the heavens? Have you seen
 Ruddy apricots that shimmer
 Through the garden's foliage green?

Have you seen the red rose glowing
 Where green leaves about her meet,
 And around her, in a bevy,
 Lilies, pinks, and iris sweet?

Lo, beside Armenia's maiden,
 Dark and dim the bright moon is ;
 Apricots and pinks and iris
 Are not worth a single kiss.

Roses on her cheeks are blooming,
 On her brow a lily fair,
 And of innocence the symbol
 Is the smile her sweet lips wear.

From her friend she takes the zither
 With a blush the heart that wins ;
 Touching it with dainty fingers,
 The lekzinca¹ she begins.

¹ An Oriental dance.

Like a tree her form is slender,
Swaying with a dreamy grace ;
Now she flies with rapid footsteps,
Now returns with gliding pace.

All the young men's hearts are melted
When the maiden they behold,
And the old men curse their fortune
That so early they grew old.



THE NEW GENERATION.

WHEN the mother, with sore travail,
 To the world a man-child gives,
 Let a sharp sword from his father
 Be the first gift he receives.

As he grows, instead of playthings,
 Toys for childish sport and game,
 Let his father give him, rather,
 A good gun, of deadly aim.

When his time is come for schooling,
 Let him to the sword give heed ;
 Teach him first to wield his weapon ;
 After, let him learn to read.

Skill of reading, craft of writing,
 Is a useful thing and good ;
 But at the examinations
 Ask him first, " Canst thou shed blood ? "

Hope ye in no other manner
 Poor Armenia to save.
 Ill the beggar's part beseemeth
 Independent men and brave.

LULLABY.

AWAKE, my darling ! Open those bright eyes,
 dark and deep,
 And scatter from thine eyelids the heavy
 shades of sleep.

Sweet tales the angels long enough in dreams have
 told to thee ;

Now I will tell thee of the things thou in the world
 shalt see.

CHORUS.

Awake, and ope thy beauteous eyes, my child, my
 little one !

Thy mother sees therein her life, her glory, and her
 sun.

Thou shalt grow up, grow tall and strong, as rises in
 the air

A stately plane-tree ; how I love thy stature tall and
 fair !

The heroes of Mount Ararat, their ghosts shall
 strengthen thee

With power and might, that thou as brave as Vartan's
 self mayst be.

A golden girdle for thy waist my fingers deft have made,
And from it I have hung a sword, — my own hands
ground the blade.

Within our courtyard stands a steed that, champing,
waits for thee.

Awake, and take thy sword! How long wilt thou a
slumberer be?

Thy nation is in misery; in fetters, lo! they weep;
Thy brethren are in slavery, my brave one; wilt thou
sleep?

No, soon my son will waken, will mount his champing
steed,

Will wipe away Armenia's tears, and stanch the hearts
that bleed;

Will bid his nation's mourning cease, and those that
weep shall smile.

Ah, my Armenian brethren, wait but a little while!

Lo, my Aghassi has awaked! He girt himself with
speed,

And from his sword-belt hung the sword, and mounted
on his steed.



TO MY NIGHTINGALE.

WHY didst thou cease, O nightingale, thy sweet,
melodious song,
That to my sad and burning eyes bade floods
of teardrops throng?
Dost thou remember, when in spring the dawn was
breaking clear,
How often to my heart thou hast recalled my country
dear?

Sweet was that memory, as a dream that for a mo-
ment's space
Brings joy into a mourner's heart, and brightens his
sad face.
The weary world forgotten, to thy voice I bent my
ear;
And I was far away, and saw once more my country
dear.

I know thou too art longing for that vernal land the
while, —
That paradise, afar from which Fate has for us no
smile.
Oh, who will give me a bird's wings, that I may sweep
and soar,
And cleave the clouds, and hie me to Armenia once
more?

If I could breathe her holy and revivifying air,
I know I should be cured at last of all this weight of
care.

But when spring passed away it brought thy music to
a close,
And took from us thy chanted hymn, with the petals
of the rose.

I'll open thy cage door ; thou 'rt free ! Now to Ar-
menia fly !
Dost thou desire the rose, 't is there ; there is a cloud-
less sky ;
'There are cool breezes, o'er the fields that softly,
sweetly blow ;
A sun that shines in splendor, and brooks that mur-
muring flow.

I too, like thee, am longing for a sunny atmosphere ;
'The mist and cloud and heavy air have tired my spirit
here.
The North wind blows the dust to heaven, the crows
with harsh notes sail ;
This is the Northern air, and this the Northern
nightingale !

O foolish, poor Armenians, what seek ye in the
North ?
I hate its empty pleasures and its life of little worth.
Give me my country's balmy air, her cloudless sky
o'erhead ;
Give me my country's pastures green, my country's
roses red !

SHALL WE BE SILENT?



HALL be silent, brothers?
Shall we be silent still?
Our foe has set against our breasts
His sword, that thirsts to kill ;
His ears are deaf to cries and groans.
O brothers, make avow !
What shall we do? What is our part?
Shall we keep silence now?

Our foe has seized our fatherland
By guile and treachery ;
Has blotted out the name of Haig,
And ruined utterly
The house of Thorkom, to the ground ;
Has reft from us, to boot,
Our crown, our arms, our right of speech —
And shall we still be mute ?

Our foe has seized our guardian swords,
Our ploughs that tilled the plain,
And from the ploughshare and the sword
Has welded us a chain.
Alas for us ! for we are slaves,
And fettered hand and foot
With bonds and manacles of iron —
And shall we still be mute ?

Our foeman, holding o'er our heads
His weapon fierce and strong,
Makes us devour our bitter tears,
Our protests against wrong.
So many woes are heaped on us,
To weep our sorrows' sum
We need the broad Euphrates' flood —
And shall we still be dumb?

Our foe, with overweening pride,
Treads justice under foot,
And drives us from our native soil —
And shall we still be mute?
Like strangers in our fatherland.
Pursued o'er plain and hill,
O brothers, where shall we appeal?
Shall we be silent still?

Not yet content with all the ills
That he has made us bear,
His insolent and cursed hand
He stretches forth, to tear
The last bond of our nation's life —
And, if he have his will,
Complete destruction waits for us ;
Shall we be silent still?

Scorning the glory of our land,
Our foe, with malice deep,
Invades our church, and makes the wolf
The shepherd of the sheep.

We have no sacred altars now ;
In valley or on hill
No place of prayer is left to us :
Shall we be silent still ?

If we keep silence, even now,
When stones have found a voice,
Will not men say that slavery
Is our desert and choice ?
The sons of brave and holy sires,
Sprung from a sacred root,
We know the deeds our fathers did —
How long shall we be mute ?

Mute be the dumb, the paralyzed,
Those that hold slavery dear !
But we, brave hearts, let us march forth
To battle, without fear ;
And, if the worst befall us,
Facing the foe like men,
Win back in death our glory,
And sleep in silence then !



IF.

IF my white hair could once again be black,
 And my old strength return to me at need,
 And if I could become a valiant youth,
 With sword in hand, upon a fiery steed ;

I to the field of Avarair would go,
 Field where Armenian blood rained down like dew.
 O my loved nation, Thorkom's ancient race !
 I would give back your long-lost crown to you.

To the Armenian maidens I would say :
 " Sell now your costly garments beautiful ;
 Put by adornment, luxury, and pearls ;
 Our swords are rusty, and their blades are dull.

" Give us your muslin robes, Armenian maids,
 That we our bleeding wounds may stanch and stay ;
 Weave bandages for us of your thick hair ;
 'T is thus you need to show your love to-day."

Were I a rich man, in whose coffers deep
 The gold and silver to great heaps had grown,
 I would not be, as many are, alas !
 A patriot in vain words, and words alone.

Not bright champagne, nor Russia's crystal cross,
But store of balls and powder I would buy ;
Against Armenia's foemen I would go
With a great host, freely and fearlessly.

Or if I were a nation's potent king,
I to my army would give strong command
To march with fleet steps toward Armenia,
To help the poor oppressed Armenian land.

But if for one brief day, one little hour,
One moment's space, I were the Lord of all,
What a sharp spear at our blood-thirsty foes
I with strong arm would hurl, and make them fall !

O guileful Russian ! Base and vicious Turk !
O vengeful Persian ! O fanatic Greek,
Armenia's age-long rival ! On your sons
My two-edged sword should righteous vengeance
wreak !



PRAISE TO THE SULTAN.



OUR thanks to you, great Sultan ! You have
 turned
 Armenia to a chaos of hewn stone ;
 Daily by myriads you have slaughtered us ;
 Our thriving hamlets you have overthrown.

Glory and fame unto your Majesty !
 Following the Koran's law, you have not feared
 Our holy Bible's pages to defile ;
 With filth and mire the cross you have besmeared.

Our gratitude to you, great Padishah !
 Gain from our slaughter has accrued to you ;
 Your intimate associates you have made
 Circassians foul, and Koords, a thievish crew.

In noisome dungeons, thousands glorify
 Your Sovereign Majesty with loud acclaims.
 You leave no blank in all the calendar,
 But fill each space with myriad martyrs' names.

Armenia's happy ruins, glorious King,
 Will ne'er forget you ; on our history's page
 Your wondrous deeds and your illustrious name
 Shall blazoned be, to live from age to age.

WHAT SHALL WE DO?



HAT shall we do?" Now, shame on those
who that weak plaint renew!

He that despairs, in deepest shame his
cowardice shall rue.

Armenian brothers, let us ask no more what we shall
do!

What does the man do that has chanced to fall into
the sea?

What does he do that has no bread, and starves in
poverty?

What does he do that has been seized and bound in
slavery?

He that is drowning in the sea struggles with all his
might;

The hungry man wears out his neighbor's threshold day
and night;

He that is in captivity seeks ever means of flight.

O rich man, for what purpose hast thou filled thy
chests with gold?

O youth, for what hast thou reserved thy strength, thy
courage bold?

O patriot, wherefore hast thou loved thy country from
of old?

Let us no more the plaint renew,

" Armenians, say, what shall we do?"

THE SAD-FACED MOON.

(From "The Death of Vartan.")



MOON, fair moon, how long wilt thou appear
 So pale, so mournful, in the heavens' height?
 Have the dark storm-clouds filled thee with
 alarm,

Or fiery lightnings, flashing through the night?

There is none like to thee among the stars ;
 The only beauty of the heavens thou art.
 Hast thou grown pale with envy? Nay, O moon,
 'Thou hast some other secret in thy heart.

Why is thy countenance thus changed and sad?
 Speak to me freely! On the darkest day,
 If we but find a sympathizing friend
 'T is said that half our grief will pass away.

The mourner is the mourner's comforter.
 Where wilt thou find a sadder man than I,
 Forsaken and in sorrow. and, like thee,
 Hiding a secret, without word or cry?

I pass my days in grief, gay among men,
 Weeping in solitude ; my salt tears flow,
 My sad sighs sound forever, without rest :
 I have no sympathizer in my woe.

Yet every living creature has a friend ;
Shall I alone lack love and friendship? Nay,
Open thy heart to me ! If thou art sad,
My sympathy will charm thy grief away.

(*The moon speaks.*)

Hearken ! One night innumerable stars
Filled the blue sky. Among them, like a bride,
I glided softly, with my bright face veiled.
I passed o'er Pontus, bathing in its tide ;

I touched the summits of the Caucasus ;
I saw in Lake Sevan my mirrored face ;
I came to great Lake Van, of fishes full,
And cooled me in its waves a little space.

O'er many mountains, many fields I passed,
Shedding my light ; o'er all reigned silence deep ;
Amid his cattle in the quiet field
The weary farmer lay in peaceful sleep.

Ah, fair Armenia on that night was blest !
The stars of heaven made her more glorious still ;
And I, slow passing o'er her through the skies,
Gazed on that land, and could not gaze my fill.

In one short month, my circuit I renewed.
O'er cities, mountains, lakes, I passed in haste,
Longing to visit the Armenian land.
Night had again her fruitful fields embraced ;

But oh ! where were the bounteous harvests now ?
Where was the tireless tiller of the soil ?
Where was his little thick-necked buffalo ?
Where were the gardens, product of his toil ?

Dark smoke had covered the Armenian sky ;
Cities and hamlets, burning, crashed and fell ;
Fierce tongues of flame reached even to the clouds ;
To see Armenia was to gaze on hell !

Armenia, garden wet with heavenly dew !
Whence came this mighty woe, at whose behest ?
Did jealousy possess his evil heart ?
Had in his soul a serpent made its nest ?

Yes, it was age-long jealousy and hate,
That, smouldering deep, consume man's heart away,
Until at last, with fierce and thundering sound,
The hidden fires break forth, to scorch and slay ;

Like to a mountain, still and calm without,
On which the smooth snow all unmelted sleeps ;
Suddenly, lightnings from its breast are born,
And o'er whole cities fiery ruin sweeps.

O fair Armenian land ! Armenian race !
O happy places, ruined now and void !
Hamlets and cornfields, cloisters, teeming towns !
Where are you ? Why were you so soon destroyed ?

.

The moon was silent. And the dark clouds came
And hid the sky ; she passed behind a cloud ;
And I was left alone and sorrowful,
Musing with folded arms and forehead bowed.

And ever since that time, when evening comes,
I wait the pale moon's rising, calm and slow ;
And as I gaze upon her mournful face,
I think upon my nation and its woe.



COMPLAINT TO EUROPE.

MY hands, my feet, the chain of slavery ties,
 Yet Europe says, "Why do you not arise?
 Justice nor freedom shall your portion be;
 Bear to the end the doom of slavery!"

Six centuries, drop by drop, the tyrant drains
 The last remaining life-blood from our veins;
 Yet Europe says, "No strength, no power have they,"
 And turns from us her scornful face away.

A needle is not left to us to-day,
 And yet, "You ought to draw the sword!" they say.
 To powder and to shot could we give heed,
 While we sought bread our starving ones to feed?

Have you forgotten, Europe, how the dart
 Of the fierce Persian pointed at your heart,
 Until, on that dread field of Avarair,
 Armenian blood quenched his fanatic fire?¹

¹ Geographically, Armenia is the bridge between Europe and Asia. In the early centuries the Armenians acted the part of Horatius and "kept the bridge," defending the gate of Europe against the uncivilized hordes of Asia, — first against the Persian fire-worshippers, whose advance toward Europe the Armenians checked at the battle of Avarair in A. D. 451, and later against successive invasions of the Mohammedans.

Have you forgot the fell and crushing blow
Prepared for you by Islam long ago ?
We would not see your desolation then,
Burning of cities, massacre of men.

Two hundred years Armenia, bathed in blood,
Withstood that great invasion's mighty flood.
Europe was safe, our living wall behind,
Until the enemy's huge strength declined.

Have you forgotten, Europe, how of yore
Your heroes in the desert hungered sore ?
What then could strength or force of arms avail,
Had we not fed your hosts. with famine pale ?¹

Ungrateful Europe, heed our woes, we pray ;
Remember poor Armenia to-day!

¹ The Armenians acted as guides to the Crusaders in Asia ; and when they were about to raise the siege of Antioch for want of food, the Armenians of Cilicia supplied them with provisions and enabled them to take the city.



SONG OF THE VAN MOTHER.



WILL not rock you, little boy, that sleep your
soul may bind ;

Your brothers have arisen ; you only stay
behind.

Awake from sleep, my darling ! From the West hath
shone the sun.

Awake ! The happy fortune of Armenia has begun.

Lo, it is fallen, dashed to bits, the Sultan's golden
throne !

From under it the liberty of many lands hath shone.

Now he who speedily shall rise shall find his liberty :

Will my fair son alone remain fast bound in slavery ?

We have implored the Sultan with mourning and with
cries ;

We washed his hands, we washed his feet, with salt
tears from our eyes.

He would not heed our piteous prayers, our sad, be-
seeching words ;

Now let us see if he will heed the clashing of our
swords !

My darling, let me from thine arms unbind the swad-
dling band,
And lay a sword of steel within that weak and tender
hand !
Go to the bloody battlefield, O slave, and come back
freed !
O Lord, our God, wilt thou one day unto our prayer
give heed ?



EASTER SONG.

This **Easter** song is sung by the children. In Turkey and Russia the last verse is forbidden.



UNDERNEATH the south wind's breathing,
 From the fields the snow has fled ;
 All the children are rejoicing —
 Christ is risen from the dead !

Brooks with happy voices murmur,
 Boughs are budding overhead,
 All the air is full of bird-songs —
 Christ is risen from the dead !

Boys and girls wear festal raiment,
 As in May the rose so red ;
 Hatred from man's heart is banished —
 Christ is risen from the dead !

Christ is risen, all Nature tells us ;
 When, ah ! when shall it be said
 Of thee also, O my country !
 Thou art risen from the dead ?



THE VIRGIN'S TEARS.

LEO ALISHAN, born at Erzerum, in the heart of Armenia, early in the last century, was a Roman Catholic Armenian, a monk of the Mechitarist Convent at Venice, and a distinguished antiquarian, scientist, linguist, and historian, as well as a poet. He is the author of many important works in these different fields, and translated into Armenian a number of poems by Longfellow and other American writers. Alishan was loved and revered by his countrymen, not only for his erudition and patriotism, but for his gentle and unassuming disposition.



FORTH welling from the breast of sapphire lakes,
 Oh, tell my jocund heart why from their shore
 Of emerald do those pairs of wandering pearls
 Like rain upon the rosy plains downpour?

Less pure, less tender, are the twilight dews,
 At eve descending on the crimson rose
 And on the lily's petals, fine and frail,
 Than those twin drops in which thy sorrow flows.

Speak, why do founts of shining tears descend,
 Mary, from thy love-dropping virgin eyes
 To thy cheek's edge, and there hang tremulous,
 As the stars twinkle in the evening skies?

As the heart-piercing pupil of the eye,
So sensitive each tear-drop seems to be ;
Like the unwinking pupil of the eye,
Charming my soul, the bright drops look at me . .

The heart throbs hard, the gazer holds his breath. —
Ah, now I know the truth ! Oh, woe is me !
For me those tears have risen to thine eyes,
To heal my spirit's wounds eternally.

But still of my unconsecrated heart
Distrustful, they half-fallen linger there,
And do not dare to drop and moisten me.
No, Mary ! No, O Virgin Mother fair !

I am a land uncultured, rough and wild ;
But, underneath those tender tears of thine,
Let rose and saffron bloom there ! With thy love
Water and cheer this sorrowing heart of mine !



EASTER SONG.



FATHER of light, we praise thee !
Thy Son is risen again.
Spirit of love, we praise thee !
He shares thy glorious reign.

Good tidings, Virgin Princess !
Thy Son is risen this morn.
Good tidings to all mortals,
The born and the unborn !

Good news to you, bright Heavens !
For Christ, who dwelt in you,
Is risen ; good tidings, lowly Earth !
Thy Saviour lives anew.

Good news to you, all worlds and orbs
That circle overhead !
Good news ! Your great Establisher
Is risen from the dead !

Good news, ye light and darkness !
A new sun rises high.
Good news to you, all creatures !
Christ lives ; you shall not die.

Good news to you, ye dead folk !
For you shall be set free.
Good tidings to all beings
That are, or are to be !

THE EXILES.



LAS, ye poor Armenians !
 In undeserved distress
 Ye wander forth to slavery,
 In want and wretchedness.

A myriad woes ye suffered,
 Nor left your own dear home ;
 But now ye leave your fathers' graves,
 In distant lands to roam.

These waters sweet, these smiling fields,
 Where cities fair are set,
 To strangers ye abandon them,
 But how can ye forget ?

Nay, while you live, remember ;
 Be to your country true :
 Your children and descendants,
 Bid them remember too.

The holy name of Ararat
 And many a sacred fane,
 'Till the last judgment wakes the world,
 Shall in their hearts remain.

Alas for thee, my country !
 Alas for thee, for us !
 I would that death had sealed mine eyes
 Ere I beheld thee thus !

MOON IN THE ARMENIAN CEMETERY.



MOON, fair lamp divinely lit !
God set you in the sky
'To lead night's hosts, for darkness blind
And for my heart an eye.

When o'er my head you swing, your lamp
A glittering chain doth hold ;
Your string of heavenly silver is,
Your wick of burning gold ;

And, as a diamond flashes light,
You shed your rays abroad.
How bright you were, that second night,
Fresh from the hand of God !

How bright you were when first was heard
The heavenly nightingale !
The wind, that seemed like you alive,
Played soft from vale to vale ;

With that calm breeze, the limpid brook
Plashed in an undertone ;
There was no human ear to hear,
The angels heard alone.

The angels swung you in their hands,
And silently and slow
You traversed heaven's cloudless arch,
And sank the waves below,

What time the sun with feet of fire
Was soon to mount the blue,
While o'er the silent world were spread
Twilight and hoary dew.

Stay, stay, O sun ! awhile delay ;
Rise not in the blue sky,
But let the little moon still walk
The cloudless realm on high !

Stay, little moon ! Oh, linger yet
Upon the heights and hills ;
Pass slowly, calmly, where your light
The sleeping valleys fills !

For I have words to utter yet,
To you I would complain.
Oh, many are my bitter griefs,
My heart is cleft in twain.

Bright moon, haste not away because
You hear a mourner's cry !
As comforter of broken hearts
You shine there in the sky.

You come to Eden's land, but not
As on that far first night,
When man was happy, knowing naught
Save life and love's delight.

Then your white radiance was warm
To waves and flowerets fair,
And wheresoe'er your soft light fell,
Immortal life bloomed there.

Turn and look down on me, O moon !
Gaze at our mountains' foot,
And see the ruined temples there,
And tombs so sad and mute, —

Tombs of Armenians who long since
From earth have passed away.
There sleep the ashes of our sires,
In darkness and decay.

Armenians they, the earliest born
Of all the human race,
Who had their home within the land
Once Adam's dwelling-place.

(Here follows a long list of Armenian kings.)

But you are setting fast, O moon !
Your lustre fades away,
And like a silver plate you sink
In cloud-banks dense and gray.

Stay yet a moment's space, O moon,
Stay for the love of me !
There in the valley is one stone
Unknown to history.

Go, let your last light linger there.
And lift it out of gloom,
For that obscure and nameless stone
Will mark the poet's tomb !



THE LILY OF SHAVARSHAN.

THIS is an extract from a long poem in the classical Armenian, describing the conversion to Christianity by the Apostle Thaddeus, in the first century A. D., of Santoukhd, the daughter of the Armenian King Sanadroog. Both the princess and the apostle were put to death by the king. According to Armenian tradition, Santoukhd was the earliest Christian martyr among women.



ARMENIAN maidens, come and view
In Shavarshan a lily new !

The radiant type of maidenhood,
Crown of Armenia's pride !
From the fair brow beneath her veil
The wind-stirred curls float wide.
With little steps, like turtle dove,
She walks the dew-bright plain :
Her lips drop honey, and her eyes
Effulgent glances rain.

The beauty of Armenia,
A sun-like mirror clear.
Our Northern star is bright Santoukhd,
The king's fair daughter dear.

She has come forth, the graceful bride
On whom the East and West
Desire to look, while fires of love
Consume the gazer's breast.

Less fair the bright and morning star,
'Mid cloudlets small and fine ;
Less fair the fruit whose rosy tints
'Mid apple leaves outshine ;
Araxes' hyacinthine flower
That chains of dew doth wear,
All are less beautiful than she,
With gracious mien and air.

At sight of her, the snowy peaks
Melt and are flushed with rose ;
Trees, flowers bud forth ; the nightingales
All sing where'er she goes.
The bell-flowers open myriad eyes
When she comes through the bowers ;
Beneath her breath, the vales and hills
Alike are clad in flowers.

Before her have been bent to earth
Foreheads with diadems ;
The valley has become a hill
Of scattered gold and gems.
Where passes by with humble grace
Armenia's virgin sweet,
Fine sands of pearls come longingly
To spread beneath her feet.

Full many a monarch's valiant son
Has left his palace home
In Persia or Albania,
In India or in Rome.
Admiringly they gaze on her,
Exclaiming, "Happy he
Who wins the fair Armenian maid
His bride beloved to be!"

But palace worthy of Santoukhd
The earth can nowhere show,
And for the arches of her brows
This world is all too low.
The Sky says, "Let her on my throne
Reign queen o'er every land."
The Ocean says, "My purple waves
Shall bow to her command."

There is one greater than the earth,
More wide than sea-waves run,
Higher and vaster than the heavens,
And brighter than the sun.
There is a formidable King
Whose power no bound has known;
The royal maid Santoukhd shall be
For him, and him alone.
Her halls of light are all prepared,
And for a footstool meet
The azure sky adorned with stars
Awaits her dove-like feet.

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The sharp sword glitters in the air,
And swift the red blood flows ;
Santoukhd, who was a lily fair,
Falls to the earth, a rose.
The sword flashed once, and aspects three
Were in Santoukhd descried ;
Her heart dropped blood, and roses red
Sprang up on every side ;
Her eyes were violet chalices,
Sweet e'en while they expire ;
Her face, like lilies half unclosed,
But on her lips what fire !

The heaven and earth shine white and red ;
Come forth and gather, maids,
The rose and lily joined in one,
This peerless flower that fades !
Lay in the tomb that youthful corpse,
With Thaddeus, good and brave.
Sweet maiden of Armenia,
Her sweet soil be thy grave !
Armenian maids, a lily new
Is brought to Shavarshan for you !



THE NIGHTINGALE OF AVARAIR.



HENCE dost thou come, O moon, so calmly
and softly,
Spreading o'er mountain, valley, and plain
thy light,
And over me the Patriarch, wandering sadly,
With wandering thoughts, in Avarair to-night?

Here where our matchless, brave Armenian fathers
Fell as giants, as angels to rise anew,
Com'st thou to spread o'er the bones of the saints a
cover
Of golden thread, from thy cloud of snowy hue?

Or dost thou think, though thy brow be bright already,
Adornment of heroes' blood would become it well?
Or dost thou still, in silence and secret, wonder
To think how the great and terrible Vartan fell,

Giving his enemies' lives to the shades of darkness,
And giving his spirit into the hands of God?
And thou, O River Deghmoud, thou flowest lamenting
Amid thy reeds, sad river bestained with blood.

And thou, O wind from Manguran's upland blowing,
Or Ararat's sacred summit, gray-haired and hoar,
Thou, too, like me, uncertain and trembling movest,
On faint wings passing the mountains and valleys o'er.

From forest to forest, from leaf to leaf, lamenting,
Thou comest upon the plains, in pale moonshine,
To carry unto Armenian hearts the echo
Of the last sighs of this worn heart of mine.

Nightingale, voice of the night, little soul of the roses,
Friend of all mournful hearts that with sorrow are
sighing !
Sing, little nightingale, sing me a song from that
hillock,
Sing with my soul of Armenia's heroes undying !

'Thy voice in the cloister of Thaddeus reached me and
thrilled me ;
My heart, that was close to the cross, in a reverie
grave,
Suddenly bounded and throbbed ; from the cross I
hastened to seek thee —
Came forth and found thee here, on the field of
Vartan the brave.

Nightingale, this is the tale that of thee our fathers
have told us :
That Avarair's nightingale, singing so sweetly at
daylight's dim close,

Is not a bird, but a soul,—it is Eghiche's¹ sweet-voiced
spirit,
That sees the image of Vartan for aye in the red-
blooming rose.

In winter he walks alone, and mourns in the midst of
the desert;
In spring comes to Avarair, to the bush with roses
aflake,
To sing and to call aloud, with Eghiche's voice, upon
Vartan,
To see whether Vartan perchance will answer when
called by his name.

If like the voice of a nightingale faint and weary,
Sons of Togarmah, my voice shall reach your ears,—
Sons of the great, whose valiant and virtuous fathers
Filled plains, books, and the heavens, in former
years,—

If one small drop of blood from Armenia's fountain,
The fount of Bahlav, flow into your bosoms' sea,—
If you would that your country's glories for you be
written,
Come forth to Ardaz with your Patriarch, come with
me!

¹ An Armenian historian of the fifth century, a contemporary of Vartan. In his history of the Persian invasion he compares Vartan drenched in his blood, to the red rose.

A SONG OF FATHERLAND.



WE are the sons of valiant men, Armenians great
and free ;
Our grandsires were descended from a hero-
ancestry ;
Our fathers brave on Ararat were strong to draw the
bow ;
Our Haig, the son of Japhet, laid haughty Nimrod low.
From mountains high, from giants proud, this race of
warriors starts.
Then, ardent brothers, let us possess Armenian hearts !

Lift up your eyes unto the heights that pierce the
heavens vast,
The land that was the cradle of all nations in the past.
God on free Ararat abides, and raises in the air,
To give us hope, a temple built of seven colors fair.
The hearts of the Armenians with courage to inspire,
He spans the heavens with a wide and wondrous arch
of fire.

No nation can survive unless it glows with patriot flame ;
No son of the Armenian race is worthy of his name
Unless to all the virtues of his fathers he aspires.
Then let us, brothers, emulous of our exalted sires,

Now gird ourselves for usefulness, to serve in word and deed.

To the vain words of foreigners no more let us give heed,

But let the spirit bright of Haig sway all our inward powers.

Then, brothers, ardent brothers, Armenian souls be ours !

Brothers, let hand to hand be pressed, and heart to heart, in love,

And toward one common object together let us move ;

And let the touch of fiery lips unite our minds in one,

While in all hearts a common pulse shall beat in unison !

Let us from tombs and monuments decipher and unfold

The glorious deeds achieved by our immortal sires of old,

To show to all the nations round our ancestors of fame,

And show our ancestors, in us, sons worthy of their name !

To the arena, patriots, go forth and cry, " Behold,

We are the children of those great Armenians of old !

Through us a new Armenia in splendor shall arise,

And cast away the sombre veil that hid her from men's eyes.

Armenia, sit no longer mute and hidden in the shade !

Through us among the nations shall thy name be glorious made.

Loyal until our deaths, for thee we 'll strive with heart and hand."

Then, brothers, ardent brothers, long live our native land !

WEEP NOT.



WHY art thou troubled, wandering heart?
 Why dost thou sigh with pain?
 From whom do all thy sufferings come?
 Of whom dost thou complain?

Is there no cure for wounds, no friend
 To lend a pitying ear?
 Why art thou troubled, wandering heart?
 Weep not! See Jesus near!

Sorrow and hardship are for all,
 Though differing forms they wear.
 The path he gave us teems with thorns,
 The feet must suffer there.

What life, though but a day's brief span,
 Is free from pain and woe?
 'T is not for mortals born in grief
 To live at ease below.

Not for the transient joys of earth
 Thy heart to thee was given,
 But for an instrument of grief,
 To raise thy life toward heaven.

If joys be few, if pains abound,
If balms bring slow relief,
If wounds be sore and nature weak,
Thy earthly life is brief.

This is the vale of death and pain,
Ordained for ancient sin ;
Except through anguish, Eden's gate
No soul shall enter in.

Justice ordained it ; mercy then
Made it more light to bear.
Unasked by thee, Christ sweetened it,
His love infusing there.

From heaven's height he hastened down,
Pitying thy trouble sore ;
With thee a servant he became,
Himself thy wounds he bore.

He filled his cup celestial
Full of thy tears and pain,
And tremblingly, yet freely.
He dared the dregs to drain.

Remembering this, wilt thou not drink
Thy cup of tears and care ?
'T is proffered by thy Saviour's hand,
His love is mingled there.

He feels and pities all thy woes,
He wipes away each tear ;
Love he distils into thy griefs ;
Weep not, for he is near !



MISCELLANEOUS.

THE CHRIST-CHILD.

BY SAINT GREGORY OF NAREK (BORN 951; DIED 1011).



HE lips of the Christ-child are like to twin
leaves ;

They let roses fall when he smiles tenderly.

The tears of the Christ-child are pearls when he
grieves ;

The eyes of the Christ-child are deep as the sea.

Like pomegranate grains are the dimples he hath,

And clustering lilies spring up in his path.



HYMN.

BY NERSES THE GRACEFUL (BORN 1102; DIED 1172).



DAY-SPRING, Sun of righteousness, shine
 forth with light for me !
 'Treasure of mercy, let my soul thy hidden
 riches see !

Thou before whom the thoughts of men lie open in
 thy sight,
 Unto my soul, now dark and dim, grant thoughts that
 shine with light !

O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Almighty One in
 Three,
 Care-taker of all creatures, have pity upon me !

Awake, O Lord, awake to help, with grace and power
 divine ;
 Awaken those who slumber now, like heaven's host to
 shine !

O Lord and Saviour, life-giver, unto the dead give
 life,
 And raise up those that have grown weak and stumbled
 in the strife !

O skilful Pilot! Lamp of light, that burnest bright and
clear!

Strength and assurance grant to me, now hid away in
fear!

O thou that makest old things new, renew me and
adorn;

Rejoice me with salvation, Lord, for which I inly
mourn.

Giver of good, unto my sins be thy forgiveness given!
Lead thy disciples, heavenly King, unto the flocks of
heaven!

Defeat the evil husbandman that soweth tares and
weeds;

Wither and kill in me the fruits of all his evil seeds!

O Lord, grant water to my eyes, that they may shed
warm tears

To cleanse and wash away the sin that in my soul
appears!

On me now hid in shadow deep, shine forth, O glory
bright!

Sweet juice, quench thou my soul's keen thirst! Show
me the path of light!

Jesus, whose name is love, with love crush thou my
stony heart;

Bedew my spirit with thy blood, and bid my griefs
depart!

O thou that even in fancy art so sweet, Lord Jesus
Christ,
Grant that with thy reality my soul may be sufficed !

When thou shalt come again to earth, and all thy glory
see,
Upon that dread and awful day, O Christ, remember
me !

Thou that redeemest men from sin, O Saviour, I
implore,
Redeem him who now praises thee, to praise thee
evermore !



LOVE SONG.

BY SAĪAT NOVA (BORN 1712: DIED 1795).



SIGH not, while thou art my soul ! Fair one,
 thou art to me

A golden cup, with water filled of immor-
 tality.

I sit me down, that over me may fall thy shadow,
 sweet ;

Thou art a gold-embroidered tent to shield me from
 the heat.

First hear my fault, and, if thou wilt, then slay this
 erring man ;

Thou hast all power ; to me thou art the Sultan and
 the Khan.

Thy waist is like a cypress-tree, sugar thy tongue, in
 sooth ;

Thy lip is candy, and thy skin like Frankish satin
 smooth.

Thy teeth are pearls and diamonds, the gates of dulcet
 tones ;

Thine eyes are gold-enamelled cups adorned with
 precious stones.

Thou art a rare and priceless gem, most wonderful to
 see ;

A ruby rich of Mt. Bedakhsh, my love, thou art to me.

How can I bear this misery, unless my heart were stone?
My tears are blood because of thee, my reason is
o'erthrown.

A young vine in the garden fresh thou art to me, my
fair,
Enshrined in greenness, and set round with roses
everywhere.

I, like the love-lorn nightingale, would hover over thee.
A landscape of delight and love, my queen, thou art to
me!

Lo, I am drunken with thy love! I wake, but my
heart sleeps.

The world is sated with the world; my heart its hun-
ger keeps.

What shall I praise thee by, when naught is left on
earth save thee?

Thou art a deer, a Pegasus sprung from the fiery sea!

Speak but one word, to say thou art Saïat Nova's¹ love,
And then what matters aught to me, in earth or
heaven above?

Thy rays have filled the world; thou art a shield that
fronts the sun.

Thou dost exhale the perfume sweet of clove and
cinnamon,

Of violet, rose, and marjoram; to me, with love grown
pale,

Thou art a red flower of the field, a lily of the vale!

¹ An Armenian minstrel often weaves his name into the last stanza of his song, in order that he may be known as its composer. The same peculiarity appears in the next poem.

A GOOD COMRADE.




GOOD comrade, beautiful and virtuous,
Lights man's face up, like a bright sun-ray.
When a man has with him a true comrade,
Dark night passes like a sunny day.

Sacrifice is nothing ; a kind comrade
Is the spirit's lamp of light and fire.
A good friend, a true, God-fearing comrade,
Leads man ever upward, high and higher.

When our enemies attack us fiercely,
A brave comrade is a sword in fight.
Whoso has a true friend, singer Djivan,
Never shall one hair of his turn white.



THE YOUTH AND THE STREAMLET.

OWN from yon distant mountain
The streamlet finds its way,
And through the quiet village
It flows in eddying play.

A dark youth left his doorway,
And sought the water-side,
And, laving there his hands and brow,
“O streamlet sweet !” he cried,

“ Say, from what mountain com'st thou ? ”
“ From yonder mountain cold
Where snow on snow lies sleeping,
The new snow on the old.”

“ Unto what river, tell me,
Fair streamlet, dost thou flow ? ”
“ I flow unto that river
Where clustering violets grow.”

“ Sweet streamlet, to what vineyard,
Say, dost thou take thy way ? ”
“ The vineyard where the vine-dresser
Is at his work to-day.”

“ What plant there wilt thou water ? ”

“ The plant upon whose roots
The lambs feed, where the wind-flower blooms,
And orchards bear sweet fruits.”

“ What garden wilt thou visit,
O water cool and fleet ? ”

“ The garden where the nightingale
Sings tenderly and sweet.”

“ Into what fountain flow'st thou ? ”

“ The fountain to whose brink
Thy love comes down at morn and eve,
And bends her face to drink.

“ There shall I meet the maiden
Who is to be thy bride,

And kiss her chin, and with her love
My soul be satisfied.”



THE LAKE OF VAN.

BY "RAFFI" (MELIK HAGOPIAN).



SPEAK, O lake ! why are thy waters silent ?
 Wilt thou not lament with luckless me ?
 Move, ye zephyrs, move the rippling wavelets !
 With this lake my tears shall mingled be.

Tell me, lake, — for thou hast been a witness
 Of our history from the earliest day, —
 Shall Armenia, that was once a garden,
 Always be a thorny desert gray ?

Shall our hapless fatherland forever
 By a foreign master be down-trod ?
 Are the Armenians and their sons unworthy,
 Judged before the righteous throne of God ?

Is a glad day coming, when a banner
 Shall on Ararat its folds expand,
 And from every side Armenian pilgrims
 Hasten to their beauteous fatherland ?



THOU AND I.



WOULD I were the lake, so blue and calm,
And thou, fair maiden, with reluctant pride,
Wouldst see thy picture, delicate and faint,
Thy sacred image, in my depths abide.

Or would that on the shore a willow grew,
And thou mightst lean on it, and the frail tree
Might let thee fall into the lake, and there
Sway with its waters everlastingly !

I would I were the forest, dark and vast,
And that thou there mightst come to muse alone,
And, ere I knew it, I might overhear
What thy lips murmur in an undertone.

Or would that thou mightst sit beneath a tree,
Singing a pure, sweet song ; and leaf and bough,
With admiration trembling, would descend
And form a coronal to wreath thy brow.

I would I were the face of the dark sky,
That so from heaven I might shake down on thee
A multitude of stars, as 't were my tears ;
Ah, do not tread upon them scornfully !

Would I the writer were, and thou the theme !
Would thou affection wert, and I the heart !
I the bouquet, and thou its silken string ;
When thou art loosed, the flowers will fall apart.

Oh, would I were a lover of sweet song,
And thou my lyre, angel for whom I pine !
And that thy chords beneath my unskilled hands
Might vibrate till thy heart responds to mine !



TO MY SWEETHEART.

BY KRIKOR KOUTCHARIAN.



WHEN my glance wanders to the far-off deeps,
 Beauteous and infinite, of the blue skies,
 Behind transparent cloud-veils, fold on fold,—
 Then I recall your melancholy eyes.

When from the delicate light clouds descends
 The fresh, cool dew of morning, and appears,
Like a bright veil, upon the red-cheeked rose,
 I think of your deep eyes, those lakes of tears.

When the fair rainbow with its splendid hues
 Has in its arch the height of heaven embraced,
I wish I were its owner and its lord,
 That I might gird with it your dainty waist.

When the stars, bright and dazzling, glow like fire,
 And with their gems the midnight heaven deck,
My heart's pangs are more numerous than they,
 That they should not adorn your breast and neck.

My tender love, my sweetheart fair to see,
 Now parted from my arms forevermore,
She is my hapless fair Armenia,
 Whom I have loved, and ever shall adore.

THE CHRAGHAN PALACE.

BY T. TERZIAN.



HAVE you ever seen that wondrous building,
 Whose white shadows in the blue wave
 sleep?
 There Carrara sent vast mounds of marble,
 And Propontis, beauty of the deep.

From the tombs of centuries awaking,
 Souls of every clime and every land
 Have poured forth their rarest gifts and treasures
 Where those shining halls in glory stand.

Ships that pass before that stately palace,
 Gliding by with open sails agleam,
 In its shadow pause and gaze, astonished,
 Thinking it some Oriental dream.

New its form, more wondrous than the Gothic,
 Than the Doric or Ionic fair ;
 At command of an Armenian genius ¹
 Did the master builder rear it there.

¹ The late Hagop Bey Balian.

By the windows, rich with twisted scroll-work,
Rising upward, marble columns shine,
And the sunbeams lose their way there, wandering
Where a myriad ornaments entwine.

An immortal smile, its bright reflection
In the water of the blue sea lies,
And it shames Granada's famed Alhambra,
O'er whose beauty wondering bend the skies.

Oft at midnight, in the pale, faint starlight,
When its airy outline, clear and fair,
On the far horizon is depicted,
With its trees and groves around it there,

You can fancy that those stones grow living,
And, amid the darkness of the night,
Change to lovely songs, to which the spirit,
Dreaming, listens with a vague delight.

Have you ever seen that wondrous building
Whose white shadows in the blue wave sleep?
There Marmora sent vast mounds of marble,
And Propontis. beauty of the deep.

It is not a mass of earthly matter,
Not a work from clay or marble wrought ;
From the mind of an Armenian genius
Stands embodied there a noble thought.

THE WANDERING ARMENIAN TO THE
SWALLOW.

BY C. A. TOTOCHIAN.



SWALLOW, gentle swallow,
Thou lovely bird of spring!
Say, whither art thou flying
So swift on gleaming wing?

Fly to my birthplace, Ashdarag,
The spot I love the best ;
Beneath my father's roof-tree,
O swallow, build thy nest.

There dwells afar my father,
A mournful man and gray,
Who for his only son's return
Waits vainly, day by day.

If thou shouldst chance to see him,
Greet him with love from me ;
Bid him sit down and mourn with tears
His son's sad destiny.

In poverty and loneliness,
Tell him, my days are passed :
My life is only half a life,
My tears are falling fast.

To me, amid bright daylight,
The sun is dark at noon ;
To my wet eyes at midnight
Sleep comes not, late or soon.

Tell him that, like a beauteous flower
Smit by a cruel doom,
Uprooted from my native soil,
I wither ere my bloom.

Fly on swift wing, dear swallow,
Across the quickening earth,
And seek in fair Armenia
The village of my birth !



SONG OF REVOLUTION.

IF on the ocean tempest-tossed
My shattered bark be wrecked and lost,
Amid the wild and raging sea
All hope shall not depart from me.

With all my power, with steadfast will,
I'll wage a swimmer's battle still,
And, cleaving mighty waves that roar,
I'll urge my pathway toward the shore.

And if in this unequal strife
My powers succumb, and fails my life, —
If whirling waves that foam and hiss
Shall whelm me in the deep abyss, —

One great, sweet thought shall serve to fill
My heart with consolation still :
That hero-like my spirit passed,
Contending bravely to the last.



THE LAMENT OF MOTHER ARMENIA.

IN alien lands they roam, my children dear ;
Where shall I make appeal, with none to
hear?
Where shall I find them? Far away from me
My sons serve others, thralls in slavery.

CHORUS.

Oh, come, my children, back to me !
Come home, your motherland to see !

Ages have passed, no news of them I hear ;
Dead, dead are they, my sons that knew not fear.
I weep, the blood is frozen in my veins ;
No one will cure my sorrows and my pains.

My blood is failing and my heart outworn,
My face forever mournful and forlorn ;
To my dark grave with grief I shall descend,
Longing to see my children to the end.

O wandering shepherd, you whose mournful song
Rings through the valleys as you pass along !
Come, let us both, with many a bitter tear,
Weep for the sad death of our children dear !

Crane of the fatherland. fly far away,
Fly out of sight, beyond the setting day ;
My last sad greetings to my children bear,
For my life's hope has died into despair !



THE SON OF DALVORIG.

BY MIHRAN DAMADIAN.



BRAVE son of Dalvorig, Dalvorig's son am I ;
Son am I of the mountain, son am I of
the rock.

Not like the timid dwellers in city walls am I ;

I am the remnant of the old, the brave Armenian
stock.

The brave son of Dalvorig, Dalvorig's son am I,

And in the presence of the Turk I do not cringe or
bow ;

The free son of the rocky hills, the rugged heights, am I ;

My eyes have never looked upon the plough-haft or
the plough.

CHORUS.

Ho, my Armenian brothers, Dalvorig's son am I ;

Oh, come to me, come hither, for the love of liberty !

When on the world I ope'd my eyes I saw our moun-
tains high,

Our rocks and cliffs ; our mountains, our rocks and
cliffs were free.

Until I close my eyes upon the darkness when I die,
Ne'er shall the feet of foreigners tread here triumphantly.

My mother gave me birth in a narrow, rocky gorge,
The strong branch of a walnut tree my cradle-bed became ;

So plain and simple was my birth, so plainly I was reared.

My portion in this earthly life is conflict, fire, and flame.

My feet are bare, my chest exposed ; but what for that care I,

If only my young sister may grow up free like me?
To me the sunshine and the cold and mist are all the same,

So long as here the Turk and Koord have no authority.

My life is hard, my life is rough ; I never have been used

To dwell at ease in luxury and feed on dainty fare.
I do not live in palace halls, my dwelling is the rock,
The tempest and the earthquake are my companions there.

Let other men inhabit the valleys and the plains,
And with the base and ruthless Turk on terms of friendship be ;

I will remain unvanquished forever and a day,
Even if twenty squadrons should come to vanquish me.

Instead of tender wheaten bread, the millet is my
food ;

I forge the red-hot iron day and night, incessantly ;
I make cross-irons for griddles, and spades to till the
soil ;

Men look upon my lot in life as hard, but I am
free.

High genius and the homage of the mind are not for
me ;

Enough for me it is to have my dagger and my
sword ;

Enough for me it is to know that while the mountains
stand

No foreigner shall ever be my master and my lord.
My arms my only playthings are ; comfort I hate, and
ease ;

A quiet and a placid life upon me soon would
pall.

I love the chase, I love the fight, I love the fight's
reward,

And I am ever ready when comes the signal call.

When the alarm is given, then fearless I start forth ;

The mountains of Sassoun breathe a sigh and cry
aloud —

They cry aloud, and over them there spreads a crim-
son stain ;

The red stain on the mountains, it is their heroes'
blood.

The hero's heart, the hero's hand! What does the
hero care

Although a thousand wounds and one should pierce
him, blow on blow ?

For every blow men deal him, a thousand he returns ;
He strews the earth with corpses, a banquet for the
crow.

I leap upon the mountains as leaps the mountain
deer ;

The thunder of my angry voice the lion's roar is
like ;

I foam as foams the ocean, fierce beating on the
shore ;

And when I smite the foeman, as a thunderbolt I
strike.

The stormy field of battle is my portion in this life ;

There either the red sunset light shall see, in even-
ing's breath,

My banner wave in victory, and give it greeting fair,

Or it shall see my silent face set pale and cold in
death.



PART II.

THE SONG OF THE KNIGHT.

SIAMANTO (Atom Yarjanian) was born at Akn, Asia Minor, in 1878, of prosperous parents, who later moved to Constantinople. He was well educated. Abdul Hamid's massacres made a deep impression on him. He sympathized with the revolutionary movement, and left Constantinople. Thrown upon his own resources by his father's death, he led the life of a poor student in Paris, Vienna, Zurich and Lausanne. When the new constitution was proclaimed in Turkey, he returned to Constantinople, devoted himself to writing, and supported his younger brothers and sisters. A volume of poems published in 1902 under the pen name of Siamanto had made him famous, and other volumes followed. After the Adana massacres he came to America and spent a year in Boston, editing the Armenian paper *Hairenik*. He then returned to Constantinople, and he is believed to have been among the group of educated and influential Armenians of that city who were massacred in 1915, after barbarous tortures. Siamanto was a man of lovable character, and is considered one of the greatest Armenian poets.



THE sun is up, the hour has come for starting,
O my steed!

A moment wait till I pass my foot through
thy stirrup glittering clear.

I read my Aim in thy shining eyes, that know and
understand.

Oh, joy of joys! Oh, blest be thou, my steed, my
steed so dear!

My body still is firm and light with the joy and spring of
youth,

And on thy saddle I shall perch like an eagle, proud
and free.

The golden oats that I gave to thee in plenty, O my
steed!

Have made mad life through thy form flame up; how
fleet thy course will be!

Galloping thou wilt fly along, fly ever upon thy
way,

And sparks from the strokes of thy brazen shoes will
blossom as we go past.

Let us grow drunk with our rapid course like heroes,
O my steed!

And, infinitely winged like the wind, drink in the
blast!

The boundless space before thy pace recedes and
disappears,

The sinful cities with all their crimes bow down
beneath thy tread.

Black flocks of crows that tremble thy swiftness to
behold

Are seeking shelter in the clouds, the thick clouds
overhead.

The sad earth seems below us and we up among the
stars;

Thou no abyss nor downward slope dost heed, with
eyes aflame;

There is no obstacle, no rock that can thy flight
impede;

Impatient, fain wouldst thou attain the summit of
the Aim.

My fleet, fleet steed! My idol of snow-white marble
fair!

With all my soul I worship thee! As on our course
we fly,
My dreamy brow is burning with the flames of mine
Ideal;

Oh, spur me onward to my Aim! Slave of thy foot-
steps I!

I am the slave of thy fleet steps, child of the hurricane!
Speed on, athirst for vengeance, O swift, swift steed of
mine!

A needless halt I spurn and hate, with all my anger's
might.

Ours are the summits, and the wreath of victory is
thine!

Thy delicate cream-white body boils with thine ardent
fire of life;

Thy tail is a cataract; rushing down, like a hurricane
it blows.

Within thine eyes, so bright and keen, there shine two
flaming stars;

The ring of thy swift shoes forges fear, as onward
our journey goes.

I told thee that I am thy slave, for liberty athirst.

Oh, bear me swiftly toward the South, away from
this frontier!

We shall be clothed with suns and blood, beyond the
stately heights

Of Ararat and Aragatz. Speed on, my courser dear!

I hold no whip within my hand, my courser, thou art free;
Upon thy back, that glistens like a lily white and fair,
I only shed sweet touches of my fingers as we go.

They touch thy bright flesh like a stream of honey
dropping there.

Thou hast no bridle upon thy neck, no bit within thy
mouth;

Enough for me one wave of hair from thy full mane
backward flung.

I have no need of stirrup-irons for my feet to grip thy
sides;

A silver saddle thou hast alone, a saddle with pearls
bestrung.

For my native valleys I yearn, I yearn, the valleys
that hold my home,

But halt thou never, my courser swift, the star-
strewn heavens below!

Away by the mouths of caverns deep like a shadow
thou must pass,

From forests, vineyards and gardens green still
farther and farther go.

Who knows, perchance a maiden fair by the side of a
running brook

Might hand me a cluster of golden grapes, and proffer
a draught of wine;

My soul might understand her, and she like a sister
smile on me—

But I do not wish to be lost in dreams; halt not, swift
steed of mine!

Thou wilt pass by the shadowy bowers of my birth-
place, Eden-fair;

The nightingale, the nightingale, fain would I drink
her song!

The rose-scent, on my pilgrimage, I have dreamed of
many a year.

Oh, how my heart is yearning! But halt not, speed
along.

And in my pathway haply old corpses might arise,
Their shrouds upon their shoulders, their hands held
out to me,

Approach me—me the wretched!—and breathe upward
to mine ear

Their loves and vengeance ne'er to be forgot—but
onward flee!

I shudder at the ruins and at barren, helpless pangs.

My courser, near the ashes of the cities make no stay!

Oh, tears, the tears of others, they choke me without
ruth;

The woe, the griefs of others drive me mad, upon my
way!

Oh, do not halt, my courser, where these corpses
scattered lie!

Fly far away from graveyards, where white shades of
dead men be.

I cannot bear, I tell thee, I cannot bear again

The death of my dear native land with anguished
eyes to see!

Behold the landscape of the place in which I had my
birth!

At sight of it my longing glance with tears grows
moist and glows.

But yet I would not shed them; nay, do not pause or
stay,

My steed, my steed of swiftest flight! My Aim no
weakness knows.

Lo! 'tis Euphrates sounding. Why, river, dost thou
roar?

Thy son is passing. Why so dark the flood thy shore
that laves?

I am thy son. Oh, do not rage! Hast thou forgotten
me?

I with thy current would speed on, and would out-
strip thy waves.

The memory of my childhood draws from me tears of
blood;

A dreamy youth who used to stray along these banks
of thine,

All full of hope, with sunlight mad, and happy with his
dreams—

But ah! what am I saying? Pause not, swift steed
of mine!

Behold the glorious autumn, which vaguely dies around!

Upon my brow a yellow leaf has fallen like a dream.

Is it my death it stands for, or the crowning of my faith?

What matter? On, my neighing steed, sweep onward
with the stream!

Perchance it was the last sere leaf of my ill-omened
fate

That fell upon us even now. What matter? Speed
away!

From the four corners of the land are echoing the words,
"Ideal, O free-born Ideal, halt not, halt not nor
stay!"

I worship thee! Now like a star thou shootest on thy
course;

Thou art as fleet, thou art as free, as is the light-
ning's flame;

And through the wind and with the wind like eagles
now we soar.

I am thy knight, I am thy slave; oh, lift me to my Aim!

Down from the summits of the rocks, the dread and
cloudy peaks,

The cataracts, the cataracts are falling in their might!
Their currents white are pure, my steed, as thine own
snow-white form,

And their imperious downward sweep is savage as thy
flight.

But why now doth a shudder through all thy body run?

Oh, what has chanced, my hero? Why do thy looks
grow dark?

Oh, turn thine eyes away from me, thine eyes with
trouble filled;

Past the horizons fly along, fly like a wind-borne
bark!

I heard the wailing and the cries, entreaties and laments,
From ruined huts and cities that reached us on our
way.

But ah! what use in pausing all powerless before pain?
Our task is to relieve it; then do not halt nor stay.

Through the death-agony, my steed, we passed with
tearless eyes.

Oh, do not halt! Oh, do not stay! Brave be that
heart of thine!

From this time onward, I will burn Hope's torches
blazing bright.

To halt means death to us; pause not, O gallant
steed of mine!

Aloft on thy galloping form, full oft, in our journey ere
to-day

I have heard how thy swift, spark-scattering hoofs,
as ever we forward flee,

Have many and many a time crushed bones, that fell
beneath their tread,

And the skulls with their empty sockets dark gazed
at me—didst thou see?

I tell thee, under thy shoes I heard the skeletons break
and crash,

But I kept silence. My lips are dumb. Halt not,
halt not, my steed!

I will bury my sobs and sighs of grief in my soul's
abysmal depths.

Let nothing live but my anger hot! Pause not, but
onward speed!

Oh, pause not, falter not in thy course, wild creature
of marble white!

Tears will not banish the Pain of Life, nor drive
out its woe and wrong.

Nay, the Ideal shall toll, shall toll the bells of glowing
wrath.

The cranes, far flying, will call to us; oh, follow their
distant song!

But where does thy path lead? What is this? My
steed, hast thou lost thy mind?

The ashes! Oh, the desolate plains of ashes and
ruins gray!

Like fog the gray dust rises up to stifle and choke our
breath.

Oh, tear thy way through these frightful mounds,
break through them and speed away!

Lift up thy forehead, lift up thine eyes, let me cover
them with my hand!

Halt not, 'tis the Crimson, the Crimson dread; red
blood beneath us lies.

Across my face to blind mine eyes I have pulled my
fluttering scarf;

Halt not! What good would it do, my steed, to
pause here with useless sighs?

Ah, once, accompanied by my griefs, my lyre shed
tears of blood;

Weeping I hate from this time on; thou only art my
soul.

Thou breathest battle, for glory keen, and I am thy
prince, thy slave!

Thy form was worshipped by glorious Greece. Oh,
lift me to my Goal!

The sound of the wind is like a horn that is winded
far away;

The forests, ranged like troops of war, stood ready as
we passed.

At the wild ringing of thy hoofs, old hopes like giants
woke;

Old laws are crushed, old tears are shed, old sounds
are dying fast.

And in thy flight, at daybreak, on a lofty table-land,

New giants, new insurgents, new heroes we shall spy.

The sons of suffering are they, who in this hostile age

Were born in blood, are wroth with blood, and wish
in blood to die.

When we see columns rolling up, armed with the
hurricane,

We by their side will march along the pathway to the
Aim.

Of glory and the crowning of the martyrs I shall sing;

My lyre will play, that gallant day, my Torches burn
and flame!

The day has dawned, has dawned at last! I am thy
knight, thy slave!

The slope is difficult and steep, but, breathing heavily,

Thou must fly on—one effort more, amid the fires of
morn!

I am athirst for victory, my noble steed, like thee.

A few more ringing steps, my steed, and one last bound!
and then

What a procession, what a host, all glad and full of
might!

'Tis Freedom's pioneers; their swords flash out life-
giving rays, •

And Brotherhood they celebrate in morning's glorious
light.

Here may'st thou halt. Be blest, my steed! Worthy
of God art thou!

Tears fill my soul as mine Ideal I gaze on and admire.
Thy triumph is the mighty law of beauty infinite.

Lo, there six sombre centuries are standing, armed
with fire!

I, armed already, will arm thee. O'er my shoulder
burns thy torch.

They like the tempest wish to walk, under the dawn-
ing's glow,

Laden with justice. Oh, the land is barren and
athirst!

Lo, from our flight the giant Hope sparks in the
paths will sow!

THE MOTHER'S DREAM.

Let me write now and tell you of my dream.
It was upon the midnight of All Saints.
Sudden before me your four brothers knelt;
They wore no shrouds, no vestiges of flesh;
Groping in darkness, with abysmal eyes,
Weeping before their mother thus they came
To tell their memories of other days.

“Mother, the dawning of the bygone days!
We four together, from beneath the ground,
Today have sought once more your little door
To tap on it, companioned by the storm.
Mother, be not afraid, no strangers we!
And, lonely in your slumber, wait at least
And let us watch your face in death's dark night!”

“Mother, the holiness of bygone days!
Out of my heart, 'neath our poor graveyard's earth,
Mother, a flower of love for you has grown!”

“Mother, the sweetness of the bygone days!
For you two jars with my salt tears are filled.”

“Mother, the happiness of bygone days!
For you have burning roses, flowers of hope,
Sprung into fiery blossom from my soul!”

"O mother, the heroic manliness
Of bygone days! Out of my breast-bones now
Two shields for your protection have been wrought."

"Mother, your peerless beauty in the past!
How many furrows now have marked your brow!"
(Thus spake your eldest brother). "All alone
Under your roof-tree, how can you endure?
These seven years, we seven times have tapped
Upon your little door, but till to-night
We never yet have found the door unclosed.
What traveler do you await to-night?
Behold, your fragile hut is tottering,
Like to a heap of mouldering coffin-boards.
See how the leaves, storm-rent, fall from the trees!
The guiltless doves are dying in the brook,
And still upon the threshold of your home,
Mother, the black snakes lick our dried-up blood.
The garden has no leaf, no fruit, no brier.
We four together have been through the hut,
And at the sight of us our broken swords
Gave out once more a single flash of light.
Empty the larder was, and in the barn
A white lamb bleated, biting at its hoofs.
Mother, the plenty of the bygone days!
The love and pity of the bygone days!
How can you live here in your empty hut,
Here in your empty hut how can you live?"

The four were mute; but when I spoke your name
And sobbed tempestuously in my dream,
They wildly, with bowed heads, began to weep.

“But still,” I said, “your brother is alive—
The little one, who did not see you die.
It is for him alone I live to-day.”

Then they burst forth, and poured upon mine eyes
The terrible black tear drops of the dead.
“A brother, oh, we have a brother yet,
A brother, oh, a brother in the world!
Mother, the misery of coming days!
Hereafter, how shall we to earth return?
Now how, oh, how shall we to earth return?”



PRAYER.

THE swans, in discouragement, have migrated
from the poisonous lakes this evening,
And sad sisters dream of brothers under the
prison walls.

Battles have ended on the blossoming fields of lilies,
And fair women follow coffins from underground
passages,
And sing, with heads bowed down towards the ground.

Oh, make haste! Our aching bodies are frozen in these
pitiless glooms.
Make haste towards the chapel, where life will be more
merciful,
The chapel of the graveyard where our brother sleeps!

An orphan swan is suffering within my soul,
And there, over newly-buried bodies,
It rains blood—it pours from mine eyes.

A crowd of cripples pass along the paths of my heart,
And with them pass barefooted blind men,
In the divine hope of meeting some one in prayer.

And the red dogs of the desert howled all one night,
After hopelessly moaning over the sands
For some unknown, incomprehensible grief.

And the storm of my thoughts ceased with the rain;
The waves were cruelly imprisoned under the frozen
waters;
The leaves of huge oaks, like wounded birds,
Dropped with cries of anguish.

And the dark night was deserted, like the vast infinite;
And, with the lonely and bloody moon,
Like a myriad motionless marble statues,
All the dead bodies of our earth arose to pray for one
another.



MY TEARS.



WAS alone with my pure-winged dream in the
 valleys my sires had trod;
 My steps were light as the fair gazelle's,
 and my heart with joy was thrilled;
 I ran, all drunk with the deep blue sky, with the light
 of the glorious days;
 Mine eyes were filled with gold and hopes, my soul
 with the gods was filled.

Basket on basket, the Summer rich presented her
 fruit to me
 From my garden's trees—each kind of fruit that to
 our clime belongs;
 And then from a willow's body slim, melodious, beau-
 tiful,
 A branch for my magic flute I cut in silence, to make
 my songs.

I sang; and the brook all diamond bright, and the birds
 of my ancient home,
 And the music pure from heavenly wells that fills
 the nights and days,
 And the gentle breezes and airs of dawn, like my sister's
 soft embrace,
 United their voices sweet with mine, and joined in
 my joyous lays.

To-night in a dream, sweet flute, once more I took you
in my hand;

You felt to my lips like a kiss—a kiss from the
days of long ago.

But when those memories old revived, then straight-
way failed my breath,

And instead of songs, my tears began drop after
drop to flow.



THE YOUNG WIFE'S DREAM.



YEAR after year, sitting alone at my window,
I gaze on thy path, my pilgrim heart-mate,
And by this writing I wish once more to sing
The tremors of my body and mind, left without a
guardian.

Ah! dost thou not recall the sun on the day of thy
departure?

My tears were so plentiful and my kisses so ardent,
Thy promises were so good and thy return was to be
so early!

Dost thou not recall the sun and my prayers on the
day of thy departure,

When I sprinkled water on the shadow of thy steed
from my water-jar,

That the seas might open before thee,
And the earth might bloom beneath thy feet?

Ah, the sun of the day of thy departure has changed to
black night,

And the tears of waiting, beneath the shower of so
many years,

Have poured from mine eyes like stars on my cheeks,
And behold! their roses have withered.

It is enough. Through longing for thee, I feel like
plucking out my hair;

I am still under the influence of the wine of thy cup,

And a mourner for thy absent superb stature;
And, wounding my knees with kneeling at the church
door,
I entreat for thee, turning towards the west.

Let the seas some day dry up from shore to shore,
And let the two worlds approach each other in an instant!
Then I should have no need of heaven or of the sun.

Return! I am waiting for thy return on the threshold
of our cottage.
My hands empty of thy hands, I dream of thee, in my
black robes.
Return, like the sweet fruits of our garden!
My heart's love keeps my kiss for thee.

Oh, my milk-white hips have not yet known motherhood,
And I have not yet been able to decorate a swaddling
cloth
With my wedding veil, wrought with golden thread;
And I have not yet been able to sing, sitting beside a
cradle,
The pure, heavenly lullaby of Armenian mothers.

Return! My longing has no end,
When the black night comes thus to unfold its shrouds,
When the owls in the courtyard shriek with one another.
When my sobs end and my tears become bloody,
Lonely in my dreams of a despairing bride,
With my hands, like a demon, I begin
To sift upon my head the earth of my grave, which is
drawing near to me.

THIRST.

MY soul is listening to the death of the twilight.
Kneeling on the far-away soil of suffering, my
soul is drinking the wounds of twilight and of
the ground; and within itself it feels the raining down
of tears.

And all the stars of slaughtered lives, so like to
eyes grown dim, in the pools of my heart this
evening are dying of despair and of waiting.

And the ghosts of all the dead to-night will wait
for the dawn with mine eyes and my soul. Per-
haps, to satisfy their thirst for life, a drop of
light will fall upon them from on high.



THE STARVING.



YE ancient and undisturbed Armenian plains
of kind mornings,
And ye, golden fields, rich orchards, and pas-
tures smiling with life,

Ye valleys covered with marble, flower-beds and
kind and fruitful gardens—

Ye that create wine, which causes self-forgetfulness,
and eternal, sacred daily bread!

Ye indescribable paradises of plants, birds, flowers and
songs!

To-day, once more, at the lonely hour of my returning
memory, of my sorrowful grief and delirium,
I call on your spirits, in bitterness live your life, and
hopelessly weep for you!

Out of the blue, boundless space the fiery dawns open
their lilies,

And lo! the proud cock makes his silvery voice resound.
The *kotchnaks*¹ click from village to village;

An harmonious flute joyously announces invitations;
And the herds scatter themselves over the hilltops,
With the dance of the industrious and busy bees.

And the peace sings. The flowers tremble. The buds
seem to have the glances of saintly women.

¹ The *kotchnak* is a small wooden board that is beaten with a stick
to arouse the sleepers.

Art thou reminded of the white voice of the flour-mill,
the ever-moving body of fertility and labor,
Which turns its obedient and tireless wheel by the
billows of the unbridled torrent of the valley,
Apportioning the blessing of its flour to the cities and
villages, from time immemorial?

The brooks flow through the velvet mosses like chil-
dren's nakedness;

The morning smoke of fireplaces and chimneys alike
pours out its incense.

The beautiful young women with marble breasts go,
pitcher in hand, to the springs for the diamond-
pure water.

Others draw near the rosebush, to sing with the night-
ingale of their new-born love.

It is the happy climate of the harvest, full of good
tidings, that is born.

Nature is pregnant, and the farmers, who have drunk
of the fruit and effort of their skill,

Crowd around the plains. The scythes on their shoul-
ders flash like hope.

Andastan¹ is about to begin. To-day is the dawn of
the harvest's blessing.

Let a prayer for nature, for beneficent nature, rise
from men's lips!

May the soil grant its innumerable ears of wheat to us,
and to humanity in the four corners of the earth,—
To the neighbor, to the friend, to the enemy, to the
evil man and to the stranger!

¹ Andastan corresponds to our Thanksgiving Day.

Let all hunger be appeased, and let all thirst be
quenched with the bright water!

This celebration is solemnized from north to south,
from east to west,
For the abundance of every race, every class, every
caste, every field and every harvest.
Prayers are solemnized, and sweetened, and purified;
and out of the mist of incense
Smiles of joy brighten the face of the good peasant
with sunny hope.

The ears still standing kiss one another once more with
thoughts of the wind;
The sickles move, and golden seas, seas, seas are being
mown;
And sheaves, bundle by bundle, through the shadows
of the fertile evening,
Like a multitude of stars that have rained down,
meditate motionless from field to field.

The day is done; and with the blooming rose and the
songs of early morn,
Huge oxen, pair by pair, around the threshing rings will
thresh the wonderful wheat.
The flour mills will work, the thoner¹ will burn.
Behold all significance, all reason, all law, purpose,
cleanliness and greatness of incomprehensible life!

O all ye strange thoughts of my suffering, avaunt
for this evening!

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¹ The thoner is a round, open fireplace built in the ground.

My unhappy dream in ashes disclosed its wounded aspect.

See! the endless golden fields of yesterday wear the terrible appearance of graveyards,

And the waters of ruined fountains, so like the tears of a dying man,

Join the sobbing brooks, and go to moisten the black aspect of the horrible ruins.

In place of the infinite goodness of ears of wheat, yellow thistles have sprung up,

And over the fruit-bearing gardens the dark cawing of black crows is dying away.

With their arms outstretched against the horizon, gaunt and frail trees

With the rising of the winds are crushed against one another, like the skeletons of countless dead.

The ill-omened tempest flies along the paths by night with roaring as of a forest,

Demolishing half-ruined villages and roofs beneath the anger of its sweep,

Opening earth-mounds and graves, strangling birds in the caves.

Meanwhile from the caverns the howling of the devouring wild beasts tolls the knell of death.

There is no harvest, no harvester, no sower and no earth to plow.

Hungry oxen bellow mournfully. Vegetation is dying with the flowers.

The plow in the corner of the barn awaits the new and never-returning spring.

The cock crows no more. The dawn, it seems, like the blood of my race, has sunk into the depths of the earth.

The innumerable caravans of wretchedness, from every side, migrate towards the plains;
Tragically beating their breasts, they frame prayers, hoping against hope,
They celebrate the fields of bygone dawns, they implore, they bleed.
"O Lord, we are hungry, have pity on us!
Nature, have pity on us! Men, we are hungry! Humanity, we are hungry!"

The current of water carries the corpse of the miller,
And the mad flour-mill turns vainly, like an empty coffin.
Grinding the horror, the wailing, the death of all that surrounds it,
Madly it turns, gnawing at its millstone and wheels.

The new-born babes, with terrible eyes, suck the dry breasts.
Oh, the vision of Armenian mothers, the nearly-blinded eyes of the mothers before all these!
Oh, where is the road, where is the abyss, where is forgetfulness, where is the awful pit?
But death does not come, it does not come. Like the longed-for salvation, it does not come.

The tremulous old women, groaning beneath their head-coverings,

Amid the ashes of their ruined homes, at sunrise, with
savage blood all around them,
Among the ashes of their fallen homes, kneeling dili-
gently before their wooden kneading-troughs,
Bake in haste a little bread for the starving ones.

And the miserable throng of beggars with shattered
bodies
Wander along the painful road like phantoms,
And, though disheartened with knocking at the doors
of enemies, friends and pious folk,
They once more return, again shed tears, once more
beg, once more suffer the agonies of death.

Hear this sobbing, supplication, begging! "We are
hungry, we are hungry!"
There are those who tear their hair, there are those who
shed tears like drops of lead,
There are those who hope they are already dead under
cover of a pall of silence,
There are those who once more dig the hard earth with
their bleeding nails.
There are those who fall one upon another in the
graves,
There are those who still look for plants and roots
with stubborn hope,
There are those who begin horribly to dance, arm
in arm with frightful madness;
And others, terrible to tell, already approach the
corpses, unburied and awaiting burial.

O ye hostile thoughts of my suffering, avaunt, all of
ye, upon this evening!

THE LONGING LETTER.

DANIEL VAROUJAN was born in a village of Sebastia in 1884. He studied at St. Lazare, Venice, and later in Belgium. He is the author of a series of martial and patriotic epics. He is believed to have perished in the Constantinople massacres of 1915.



MY mother writes: "My son on pilgrimage,
How long beneath a strange moon will you
roam?

How long a time must pass ere your poor head
To my warm bosom I may press, at home?

"Oh, long enough upon strange stairs have trod
Your feet, which in my palms I warmed one day—
Your heart, in which my breasts were emptied once,
Far from my empty heart has pined away!

"My arms are weary at the spinning wheel;
I weave my shroud, too, with my hair of snow.
Ah, would mine eyes could see you once again,
Then close forever, with my heart below!

"Always I sit in sadness at my door,
And tidings ask from every crane that flies.
That willow slip you planted long ago
Has grown till over me its shadow lies.

“I wait in vain for your return at eve.

All the brave fellows of the village pass,
The laborer goes by, the herdsman bold—
. I with the moon am left alone, alas!

“My ruined house is left without a head.

Sometimes for death, and always for the cheer
Of my own hearth I yearn. A tortoise I,
Whose entrails to its broken shell adhere!

“Oh, come, my son, your ancient home restore!

They burst the door, they swept the larders bare.
Now all the swallows of the spring come in
Through shattered windows, open to the air.

“Of all the goodly flocks of long ago

One brave ram only in our stable stands.
His mother once—remember, little son—
While yet a lamb, ate oats out of your hands.

“Rice, bran and clover fine I give him now,

To nourish his rich dmak,¹ of noble size;
I comb his soft wool with a wooden comb;
He is a dear and precious sacrifice.

“When you come back, his head with roses wreathed,

He shall be sacrificed to feast you, sweet;
And in his blood, my well-belovèd son,
. I then will wash my pilgrim’s weary feet.”

¹ A mass of fat which hangs down behind sheep of this breed, in place of a tail.

THE WORKING GIRL.

BENEATH my window, as each morning dawns,
You like a wandering ghost go flitting by,
And on your beauteous virgin head there fall
Tears from my rose vine, leafless now and dry.

I hear your footsteps in the silent street,
And the awakened dog that barks at you;
Or in my sleep I hear the constant cough
That racks your lovely bosom through and through.

I think that you are hungry, robbed of sleep,
Your body shivering in the breezes cold,
And on your tresses, O my sister! lies
The frost, like jewels, glittering to behold.

Or else, I think, your shoes are torn and rent;
The water from the street is oozing through;
Or impudently, as you pass along,
Some scoundrel Turk is whistling after you.

I think that ill at home your mother lies,
And that the oil which fed the lamp is dry,
And to the factory you go, to toil
For light and life. I think of it, and sigh!

I think of it, and madly then I wish
I might come down, my pallid sister dear,
Come down to you, to kiss your thin, frail hand,
And whisper low, "I love you!" in your ear.

I love your sorrow, which is mine as well—
My grief of griefs, all other woes above;
I love your shattered breast, where still your love
Sings on and on—a skylark wild with love.

Pale girl, I long to press you to my heart
Like some poor banished dove, forlorn and lone—
Give you my strength, my prizes won from fame,
And my untarnished name to be your own.

Fain would I be your honor's veil and screen,
My breast a shield for your defenceless breast.
If I could guard, with arms as granite strong,
Your sex and your grave beauty, I were blest!

Fain would I give you all that I have won
In life's hard struggle, all I have of good—
Crown you with roses of my victory,
Roses that wear the color of my blood;

Only that never more, my sister dear,
You should be pale and hungry, coughing sore,
And that your mother's lamp should not go out,
And to the factory you should go no more!

ALMS.

TO THE STARVING PEOPLE.



HERE is famine; bread, bread!"

Who is sighing?

On the threshold of my cottage, who is
sighing?

My love has gone out, with the flame in my fireplace.
Ashes within me, ashes around me; oh, of what use is it
To sow tears on ashes?

I have nothing, nothing! To-day, with my last
Small coin I bought poison;

I shall mix poison within me.

Come to-morrow to the graveyard, thou Hungry One,
Through the storm, early, when around the village
Wolves are still wandering.

Come to-morrow! As bread, from my grave
I will throw into that bag of thine

My poet's heart.

My poet's heart shall be thy blood, the blood of thy
orphans,

As long as thy grief lives.

Come to-morrow to the graveyard, O thou Hungry One!

THE AGED CRANE.

ON the bank of the river, in the row of cranes,
That one drooped its head,
Put its beak under its wing, and with its aged
Dim pupils, awaited
Its last black moment.
When its comrades wished to depart,
It could not join them in their flight.
Scarcely could it open its eyes and watch in the air
The path of the little flock that went along
Calling down to those under the roofs
The tidings, the greetings and the tears
Entrusted to them by the exile.
Ah, the poor bird! In the bleak embrace
Of that cold autumnal silence, it is dying.
It is vain to dream any more
Of a distant spring, of cool currents of air
Under strong and soaring wings,
Or of passing through cool brooks
With naked feet, of dipping its long neck
Amongst the green reeds;
It is vain to dream any more!
The wings of the Armenian crane
Are tired of traveling. It was true
To its heart-depressing calling;
It has transported so many tears!
How many young wives have put among its soft
feathers
Their hearts, ardently beating!

How many separated mothers and sons
Have loaded its wings with kisses!
Now, with a tremor on its dying day,
It shakes from its shoulders
The vast sorrow of an exiled race.
The vows committed to it, the hidden sighs
Of a betrothed bride who saw at length
Her last rose wither unknissed;
A mother's sad blessing;
Loves, desires, longings,
It shakes at last from its shoulders.
And on the misty river-bank
Its weary wings, spread for the last time,
Point straight toward
The Armenian hills, the half-ruined villages.
With the voice of its dying day
It curses immigration,
And falls, in silence, upon the coarse sand of the river
bank.

It chooses its grave,
And, thrusting its purple beak
Under a rock, the dwelling-place of a lizard,
Stretching out its curving neck
Among the songs of the waves,
With a noble tremor it expires!

A serpent there, which had watched that death-agony
Silently for a long time with staring pupils,
Crawls up from the river-bank,
And, to revenge a grudge of olden days,
With an evil and swift spring
Coils around its dead neck.

THE BOND.

ARCHAG TCHOBANIAN was born in Constantinople in 1872, the son of a poor silversmith. He became a teacher and writer, contributing to various periodicals poems, fairy tales, literary studies and criticisms. He brought out a successful drama, was appointed teacher of the history of literature in the Central School, and became editor of a literary and artistic magazine. In 1895 he settled in Paris, where he has devoted himself to making the Armenians better known in Europe. He is an indefatigable worker, and has published, in French, a number of volumes containing translations of Armenian literature, ancient and modern, besides editing "Anahit," a literary and critical magazine which he founded.



ALL things are bound together by a tie
 Finer and subtler than a ray of light;
 Color and sound and fleeting fragrances,
 The maiden's smile, the star-beam sparkling bright,
 Are knit together by a secret bond
 Finer and subtler than a ray of light.

Sometimes an urn of memories is unsealed
 Just by a simple tune, or sad or gay;
 Part of the past with every quivering note
 From its dark sleep awakens to the day,
 And we live o'er again a long-past life,
 Just through a simple tune, or sad or gay.

Some flowers bring men and women back to mind;
 A well-known face smiles on us in their hue;

Their bright cups, moved by the capricious wind,
Will make us dream of eyes, black eyes or blue;
We in their fragrance feel a breath beloved;
Flowers bring back men and women whom we knew.

The summer sea recalls fond, happy hours;
We in the sunset see our dead once more;
In starlight, holy loves upon us smile;
With our own griefs the stormy thunders roar;
The zephyr breathes to us a name adored;
We in the sunset see the dead once more.

All things are bound in closest unison,
Throughout the world, by many a mystic thread.
The flower and love, the breeze and reverie,
Nature and man, and things alive and dead,
Are all akin, and bound in harmony
Throughout the world, by many a mystic thread.



TO THE MOON.



WHY am I not the thin white cloud
That, floating soft and slow,
Veils the pure splendor of your face
'Neath its transparent snow?

Or one of those unnumbered stars—
Bees that in heaven's height
Flit round you, seeking honey there,
O shining Rose of light?

Why am I not the dark-browed mount
Where you a moment stay,
Ere spreading your broad, viewless wings
To soar through heaven away?

Why am I not the forest deep,
Where, dropping through the air,
'Mid foliage dark slip in and hang
Threads of your golden hair?

Why am I not the tranquil sea
On which your beams descend,
Where molten diamonds and fire
And milk and honey blend?

Alas, why am I not at least
That cold tomb of the dead,
On which your rays so tenderly
Their tears' bright sadness shed?



THE WIND.



HE Wind's the aged traveler
Who sings old songs he knows,
As all alone, without a guide,
He through the forest goes.

His voice caresses like a kiss
When over flowers he strays;
The Wind's the ancient traveler
Who murmurs old-time lays.

But like a cataract he roars
Far out upon the sea,
And rushing through the winter nights
He curses savagely.



WITHIN MY HEART.



WITHIN my heart there is a maid
Would fain, with earnest will,
Recall an old, forgotten tune;
But it eludes her still.

Within my heart there is a child
Who waits, with longing dumb
And endless hope, for somebody
Who does not, does not come.

There is an old man in my heart
Who calls eternally
To someone very far away
Who never makes reply.



LULLABY FOR MOTHER ARMENIA.



ALL naked at the crossroads thou dost sit.
The snow descends and clings along thine hair.
Dark wounds are in thy flesh; thine eyes have
grown
As red as lakes of blood, in thy despair.

The ancient Mother thou, of age-long griefs;
Misfortune round thy heart its chain hath laid
In countless rings; black winds have smitten thee,
And heavy shadows on thy life have weighed.

What evil fairy spun thy thread of fate?
Who, seeing thee cast down and like to die,
Will call to mind that thou wast once a maid
Of mighty strength, with proud and radiant eye?

Thy tresses like a banner floated wide
On the free mountain where thy spirit fleet
Leaped, with exultant cry, from peak to peak;
Thy proud breast swelled with milk as honey sweet.

All brigands have desired thee; monstrous foes
Threw themselves on thee; long didst thou contend,
Long didst thou struggle, until, wearied out,
Thou didst sink down exhausted at the end.

And yet, amid destructive forces vast,
Thy soul was kind and fruitful in all worth.
Thou to the world didst add a flower of life;
Thy fingers drew forth beauty from the earth.

Mother of gold wast thou, with dazzling breasts,—
The Goddess Anahit,¹ with peaceful eyes.
Wealth from thy bosom rained, rays from thy glance;
Thy lips were musical, thy hands were wise.

Barbarians bound thy hands, thy tender flesh
Tore and polluted; in those darksome days
Thou didst become the Mother blood-bestained,
With myriad wounds, and dragged through Calvary's
ways.

Yet thou wast beauteous, thou wast brave in pain!
In fetters, still thy soul did ardent burn.
Thou brokest many a formidable yoke,
And oft from death to life didst thou return.

Thine eyes were turned forever to the light;
Toward the new world its course thy spirit sped;
And thou stood'st firm for centuries, all alone,
Against the flood of Asia making head.

That torrent, growing greater and more fierce,
O'erthrew thee, quenched beneath its waves thy light.
Then wretched, panting, stretched upon the earth,
Yet living still, thou waitedst through the night.

¹ The Goddess of love, in Armenia's pagan days.

Sometimes by night the crosses of old tombs
Stirred and were shaken; with an angry light
The genii of Mt. Ararat passed by;
From thy great lakes shot flashes red and bright.

The low sound of a drum-beat crossed the air,
And, trembling, to the mountain summit bold
Thou didst lift up thine eyes; then fell again
The heavy shadows and the silence cold.

Once, anguished, thou upstartedst; from thy lips
A cry of pain and of rebellion rushed;
But deaf the world remained; thine effort vain
'Neath the blind heel of brutal force was crushed.

'Mid fires of evil omen, monsters dire
Appeared, which burned thine heart, plucked out thine
eyes.
Driven from thy home, thou on the ground didst
fall
'Mid blood and ashes, 'neath the windy skies.

And now, a mournful shadow, thou dost sit
'Mid smoking ruins, desolate, oppressed.
Thy wounds are bitten by the wind; the blood
Falls drop by drop from thy discolored breast.

Slowly thou shak'st thy head, and shedding tears
Thou singest low and sweet a lullaby—
That of thy children fallen in their blood,
Or exiled, scattered, flung abroad to die;

The lullaby of youthful flames now quenched,
And eyes now darkened that were once so fair;
And that of those who live and suffer still,
In poverty, in dungeons, in despair.

Enough! Thy lullaby's a chant of death!
Enough! We'll sing thee a new lullaby—
A lullaby of hope and of revenge.
The dead will thrill with joy where low they lie.

Lift up thy head, weep not! Holy is grief,
And great and wholesome. Earth naught nobler knows
Than is the victim brave beneath his cross.
'Tis in the shadow that the dawn-light grows.

The black destroyers, the red torturers
Shall vanish—they like smoke shall disappear,
And from thine ashes thou shalt rise again,
Made young by suffering, radiant, bright and clear.

Weep not! No longer droop thy piteous head,
Nor let thine hair stream wild the winds among;
But know thyself, and gather up thy powers!
Thy strength has propped a stranger's house too long.

Pale brothers who have fallen, sleep in peace!
Stretch thy great hands and bless us, Mother! Rise,
And may our blood dry up, and may our lives
Be for thine happiness a sacrifice!

Thou shalt come forth triumphant from these shades;
Stars shall thine eyes become, and sparkle bright;

Thy wounds to radiant roses shall be changed,
And from thy whitened hair shall spring forth light.

Thou at the opening of the ways shalt stand,
And break the bonds that held thee down in gloom.
O Mother, rise! thy pains were childbirth pangs;
It is a world that stirs within thy womb!



WHEN SOME DAY.

HOVHANNES TOUMANIAN was born in a village of Lorga in 1869. He received little schooling, but has educated himself. His poems are very popular; and he is also the author of many translations. Since the late massacres he has been active and tireless in the relief work.



WEET comrade, when you come some day
 To gaze upon my tomb,
 And scattered all around it see
 Bright flowers in freshest bloom,

Think not that those are common flowers
 Which at your feet are born,
 Or that the spring has brought them there
 My new home to adorn.

They are my songs unsung, which used
 Within my heart to hide;
 They are the words of love I left
 Unuttered when I died.

They are my ardent kisses, dear,
 Sent from that world unknown,
 The path to which before you lies
 Blocked by the tomb alone!

BEFORE A PAINTING BY AYVASOVSKY.

RISING from ocean, billows uncontrolled,
With heavy flux and reflux, beating high,
Towered up like mountains, roaring terribly;
The wild storm blew with wind gusts manifold—
A mad, tempestuous race
Through endless, boundless space.

“Halt!” cried the aged wizard, brush in hand,
To the excited elements; and lo!
Obedient to the voice of genius, now
The dark waves, in the tempest’s fury grand,
Upon the canvas, see!
Stand still eternally!



IN THE COTTAGE.



HE little children wept and wailed;
Heart-rending were the tears they shed.
'Mamma, mamma, we want our food!
Get up, mamma, and give us bread!'

With bitter sorrow in her heart
Groaned the sick mother from her bed:
"We have no bread, my little ones;
Papa has gone to get you bread."

"No, you are cheating, bad mamma!
You are deceiving us! You said
That when the sunlight struck the banks
Papa would come and bring us bread.

"The sun has come, the sun has gone;
Still are we hungry, still unfed.
Mamma, mamma, we want our food!
Get up, mamma, and give us bread!"

"No bread your father yet has found;
Without it he dares not come back.
Wait but a little while, my dears!
Now I will follow in his track.

“In heaven there is a great Papa;
Abundant store of bread has he.
He loves you much, so very much,
He will not let you hungry be.

“There will I go and say to him
That you are faint with hunger sore.
Plenty of bread I’ll ask for you,
That you may eat, and weep no more.”

So spake the mother, and she clasped
The starving children to her breast.
On her pale lips the last kiss froze
That to their faces thin she pressed.

The mother’s arms unclosed no more—
She shut her eyes and went away
Bread to her little ones to send—
And lifeless in their sight she lay.

The little children wept and wailed;
Heart-rending were the tears they shed.
“Mamma, mamma, we want our food;
Get up, mamma, and give us bread!”



NEW SPRING.

HOVHANNES HOVHANNESIAN, teacher and writer, was born in 1864 at Vagharshabad, near Etchmiadzin. He is a graduate of the University of Moscow.



HERE art thou coming, Springtime sweet?
 Thou com'st in vain, O Spring!
 No one is left to wait for thee,
 No one thy praise to sing.

Deep darkness has enwrapped the world;
 To mount and valley cling
 Red stains of blood; this year brought woe.
 Where art thou coming, Spring?

The nightingale may sing to thee;
 Who else, where all are slain,
 Is left to smile? What heart can stir?
 O Spring, thou com'st in vain!

The nightingale has come, but found
 No rose with silken leaf.
 Here is the flower-bed, but no flower.
 Who else is free from grief?

Although thou hast brought back the birds,
How shall they find their nests?
No spot in all our fatherland
Unspoiled, unruined rests.

The minstrel's mouth is closed to-day;
No flutes or viols ring;
His heart is burning without fire.
Where art thou coming, Spring?

No one is left to praise thee now
On mountain or on plain;
No one is left to wait for thee;
O Spring, thou com'st in vain!



THE POET.



LET your song boil with fire of ardent wrath,
 And make the soul with unfeigned sorrow
 ache;
 Echo of noble wishes let it be,
 And sacred patriotism let it wake.

Let every note call on us to advance;
 Breathe hope to those oppressed by conflicts dread;
 With immortality the fallen wreath,
 And shame the man who like a dastard fled.

Yea, let us wrestle for the light, the truth,
 Which with untruth and darkness wage their fray!
 Then, bowing reverently before your face,
 "You are a poet!" we with joy will say.


Let your song ring as rings the gurgling brook
 That glides with silvery eddies mile on mile;
 Let hopes and wishes bubble there like springs,
 With sounds of power, and with a vivid smile.

Make us, while we to tender voices list,
 Forget ourselves and soar to worlds above,
 Where bitter tears of hardship are not shed,
 Where rest is found, and beauty glows with love.

Make us be glad and cast off grief and care,
And live in dreams of childhood far away;
Then we shall bless the work that you have wrought;
"You are a poet!" we with joy shall say.



SONG.

OW often in my life to find
Tranquillity I yearned!
Ever with visions infinite
My heart within me burned.

The world will not afford this peace
For which I ask in vain;
My broken, wasted heart would not
With empty hope remain.

I seek not the impossible—
One heart to which to cling,
One feeling heart, which to its mate
Would bring love's glowing spring.



THE INCENSE.

MADAME SYBIL (Zabel Klanjian Assatour) was born in Constantinople in 1863. She began very early both to write and to do benevolent work. While yet a girl, she founded one of the best organizations of women in Turkish Armenia, for the purpose of starting schools for girls in the small towns. After fifteen years of good work, the society was suppressed by the government. It was re-established, through her efforts, after the new constitution was proclaimed in 1908. It was maintaining twenty schools when the massacres of 1915 began.

After the death of her first husband, she married Herant Assatour, a well-known literary man. Her work includes prose, poetry and translations.



BEFORE the altar burns the fragrant incense;
 Softly the silver censer sways and bows;
 The columned smoke goes up, the cross
 encircling,
 And with a mist anoints the saints' white
 brows.

Infinite sighs of prayer and of entreaty
 Under the vaults die slowly and are stilled;
 Slowly the weeping flames of dim, faint tapers
 Sigh, one by one, their eyes with pity filled.

Lo, a white veil, hard by the sacred column,
Trembles with sobs that shake a hidden frame;
In a white shadow wrapped, a heart is burning
Silently, like the incense, in a flame.

Out of the censer's heart the incense passes,
Winding it rises toward the ether's height.
Matter it was; the fire its life hath swallowed;
Now 'tis but fragrance filled with colored light.

So, too, the grieving woman's heart that burns there
Will not be freed from fetters and from fires
Until it melts, dissolves, etherealizes,
Wholly consumed by flames of pure desires.



THE IDEAL.

IT is the moonlight, clear and soft, which soon
 the sun outshines—
 A fiery dream, which pales before the morn-
 ing's stronger glow.

It is the springtime's lightning flash, a splendor brief
 and bright;

A flower whose petals drop away when winds awake and
 blow.

It is a thorny rose, which draws red blooddrops from
 thine heart—

The delicate bright ribbon of the rainbow, o'er thee
 hung.

It is the purple Northern Lights that play in heaven's
 blue dome—

The snowy foam that scatters when against the rock
 'tis flung.

It is a feather pure and soft, blown from the swan's
 white breast—

A sacred kiss beneath the sky, the open ether deep.
 That which the wind, the atmosphere, the waters bear
 away

Is the Ideal—the lullaby sung to the soul asleep.

The virgin unapproachable, by showers of yearning
sought,
The golden ring that binds us unto life, unto the real—
The agitating multitude of dazzling youthful dreams.
The love-song of the heart's deep void—ah, this is the
Ideal!



TEARS.



HERE are tears that fall in grief and sadness;
Slow and mournfully the cheek they stain,
Every drop a sob, a lamentation,
In its dew a throb of bitter pain.

There are other tears, bright, clear, untroubled,
Shining as the sun, untouched of care,
Like the violet rain, calm, cool, refreshing,
When the scent of earth is on the air.

There are tears all silent and mysterious,
From the soul's love-yearning depths that steal;
They relate to us long tales of sorrow,
Buried loves which mourning veils conceal.

There are tears that seem to me like laughter—
Like clouds tempest-tossed, that roam for aye,
Flinging lightnings to the winds of ocean,
Drifting, mistlike, out and far away.

There's a dry tear, burning, never falling—
Liquid flame, intense, consuming, dread—
Not to pass until the eyes are ashes,
And the mind is ruined too and dead.

Tears, I know you all, though ye be only
Memories of a past that sorrows fill.
Strong emotions, be ye blest forever!
'Tis through you my heart is living still.



• MURMURS OF A PATRIOT.

MUGURDITCH CHRIMIAN HAIRIG is the grandest figure in modern Armenian history. He has been compared to Lincoln. Beginning in poverty, and possessing little education, he rose to the highest place through his native greatness of mind and heart. Born in Van in 1820, he married early, but was soon left a widower. He took holy orders, and devoted himself ardently to the cause of education, founding schools, training teachers, setting up in Van the first printing press in Armenia, publishing a magazine, and spreading enlightenment by every means. He was a strong advocate of education for girls, and in one of his books, "The Family of Paradise," he argues against the prevailing Oriental idea that husbands have a right to rule over their wives by force. All his views were progressive. His pupils went out through the country, spreading light. He protested courageously against the oppression and robbery practised on the Armenians. After the Turco-Russian war, in 1878, he was chosen a delegate, with three others, to plead the cause of the Armenians before the Congress of Berlin. His activities for his people's welfare caused him to be exiled for a time to Jerusalem. He rose from one ecclesiastical dignity to another, became Patriarch of Constantinople, and was finally elected Catholicos of all the Armenians. He was deeply loved and venerated for his wisdom and saintliness. He died in 1907, universally mourned. The affectionate surname of "Hairig" (Little Father) was given him by the people.

The following poem is dedicated "To brave Vartan and his fellow soldiers, in memory of the celebration of the Holy Martyrs." It commemorates those who fell in the battle of Avarair.



OD-kindled soul, brave general of the host
 Made strong by Christ! New Judas
 Maccabeus,
 Chief conqueror, giving courage for the fight,

Victorious alike in life and death!
Bold champion against the Persian faith!
For love of true religion's sacred name
And of the freedom of the fatherland,
(O greatest love!) you did not spare yourself;
You perished, and Armenia arose,
Vartan Mamigonian!

O cross-clad warrior, spurring your white steed,
Say, whither are you going in such haste?
The fellow soldier of brave Vartan I,
His fellow soldier of the self-same blood.
To reach the field of Ardaz forth I go;
And with the cross's arms, like butting horns,
The herds of the black goats I there shall crush.
Go, go, your sword turned toward the enemy,
Khorène Khorkhorooni!

Love-kindled soul, made wise by heavenly lore!
Against the Persian worshipers of fire
Wisely you fought. You sacrificed yourself;
You left this world; in heaven is your reward.
Yea, with great wisdom that exchange was made,
Wise Humayag!

Most choice foundation rock for Ararat,
The builded of the Lord, our Mother Zion!
Broken from the top of Massis,¹ you rolled down
To Ardaz; there you smote and you destroyed
The false fire-altars of the Magian faith.

¹ Massis is the Armenian name of Mt. Ararat.

Higher the glory of the cross arose,
Satan our enemy was overcome,
Wondrous Dajad!

Who, mounted on his black, swift-flying steed,
With blazing eyes, looks neither left nor right,
And goes to battle with an eager heart?
He knows that holy is the fatherland,
It is a duty high to die for it.
Go swiftly, swiftly go! I love your soul.
That vow is sacred. Give your light and life—
The light and life your country gave to you.
A death like that is immortality,
Which evil men of this world do not know,
Ardag Balooni!

O scion of a valiant race! I love
Your stature like a plane-tree, that has raised
Your head toward heaven. 'Twas God that made
you grow.
Give, do not spare that stature, nor your life,
For church and nation; sow that ready seed,
And water it with red blood from your veins,
That it may grow into a lily fair,
O Nerses, hero wonderfully built!

Angelic youth, graceful and beautiful,
Who came from Knooni's garden full of flowers!
God planted you, blind Hazgerd¹ plucked you up;
Yet living still and blooming you remain.
O what a youthful sacrifice you gave,

¹ The Persian King.

Of your free will, for your dear country's sake!
You, a new Sahag, nurtured tenderly,
You, of the house of good St. Gregory
Our father, like a lamb were sacrificed,
Delicate Vahan!

Your heart full-armed with holy zeal, to take
Vengeance for faith and fatherland, the field
Of Avarair you entered, spoiled and slew
The sons of gloomy Oromisda, seeking
To light up the fire-altars, and put out
Father St. Gregory's bright-shining lamp.
Your blood put out the altars false of fire
And lighted up Armenia's burning torch,
Amiable Arsen!

Yonder before grim Hazgerd's judgment seat,
Or here upon the field of Ardaz, aye
Forward in word, in answer, and with blade;
An ardent lover of the spotless faith
Of Jesus, and your country's liberty;
With two dear kinsmen clasped in fond embrace,
Sweetly you fell asleep. That sleep is sweet.
Let your tired arms a little while repose.
The flowers of Shavarshan, your monument,
Upon your grave, spread shade above your head,
O forward Karekin!

Free nobles of the royal family,
Two eagles winged by love, from Osdan's hill
You, swiftly soaring, came to Avarair.
For what? Was it to hunt the unclean beasts,

The sons of Servan of the darkness born,
Tearing the flocks of sable crows to bits
With hookèd claws? Bravely you fought; you smote
And you were smitten; at the last, you fell.
Nay, you are living still, and standing firm
Still, for the sake of the Armenian race,
O great Ardzrouni knights, Vahan, Sahag!

Be proud, O Gregory! Be lifted up!
Behold your lambs, who, having bravely fought
The apostate wolves, into the carnage sank.
From heaven above behold them, newly winged,
In flocks like doves, flying from earth to you!
Make broad your lap, give them a resting place;
Your sons are weary. Count them one by one.
One thousand martyrs they and thirty-six,
Whom the church sprung from you presents to heaven.

O God of Gregory, Nerses, Sahag!
God of our holy ancestors, behold
An all-devoted sacrifice for thee—
Such martyrs' sacred blood! Receive it, Lord!
Remember, Lord! Have mercy, Lord, and visit
The holy Vartan's suffering fatherland!



THE MEMORIAL OF THE LAMENTING
SOLDIER.

O, not for me will be a grave
With cross-marked stone to view!
I die upon the field of death;
My name will perish too.

And not for me a splendid bier,
Or burial's pageant vain,
Or family to mourn for me,
Or friends for funeral train.

My tomb, which my own hands have dug,
Will be a trench profound;
The graves of thousands of the dead
With mine will make a mound.

Then strip me of my uniform,
My arms and honors proud,
And leave me but my blood-stained shirt
To serve me for a shroud.

A soldier's corpse is valued not;
Within a trench to lie
'Tis cast, as on the threshing floor
The sheaves are piled on high.

We from the battle-field set out,
And we have reached our rest.
Tired soldiers of the field of blood,
Sleep with untroubled breast!

At Gabriel's trump, our mound shall stir,
And as in fresher guise
Eagles their plumage strong renew,
We to new life shall rise.

Christ comes as judge, and all earth's thrones
Before God's bar are set.
The judgment of the field of blood
Just God will not forget.

Ye living soldiers, fare ye well!
I leave this world. I bore
The sword, and perished by the sword,
As Christ foretold of yore.

A farmer God created man,
The soil to dress and till;
Curst be the hand whose wicked art
Has taught him blood to spill!

Wise men predict a golden age
When peace o'er earth shall breathe,
When kings shall all be reconciled,
And swear the sword to sheathe.

The lion shall gentle grow, the wolf
Browse by the lamb in peace,
The fields of blood with lilies bloom,
And all earth's conflicts cease.

A dream! I do not credit it.
Christ's words come back to me,
That nation shall 'gainst nation rise,
Earth be a bloody sea.

O Jesus, Saviour bringing peace!
Our world you came and saw.
Men are insane; they have not yet
Mastered your gospel's law.

Angel of love incarnated!
You said all men that live
Are brethren; give to us your peace,
Which this world cannot give!



GARINE.



HE dismal news ran through the land of Moush:
 "Here comes the Khan Long Timour, fierce
 and fell,

The despot grim who devastates the world,
 And who across the earth from east to west
 Has marched, and measured it with his lame feet."

This heard the great Amira¹ of Sassoun,
 And shook with fear. The crafty tyrant then
 A lesson learned from Satan. He cried out,
 "Oho! Oho!" His heart swelled high with pride.
 He said, "I have found out the way, the means.

"Lo, all the people of the land of Moush
 I will expel, and drive them to Sassoun;
 All empty that rich country will I leave;
 Nor man, nor cat, nor dog shall there remain.
 Then when Long Timour comes into our land,
 He will behold the country desolate,
 Village and town deserted of their folk;
 And, struck with shame, he will turn back again."

He spake, and gave command that it be done.
 The wild tribes of the mountains of Sassoun

¹ A title equivalent to Lord.

Gathered like black clouds when a storm is nigh,
They flocked together like a locust swarm,
And all came down upon the land of Moush.

Terror and panic then possessed Daron;
Moush was surrounded by a darksome fog.
The mother then disowned her infant child,
The groom forgot his bride; all tenantless
Their habitations populous they left,
And toward the vales and mountains fled away.

Who was that heroine with a manly soul?
'Twas brave Garine of the land of Moush.
Her spouse was dead; she had an eight years' child,
Her only and her well belovèd son.

Garine was a dame of noble blood,
A scion of the house of Mamigon,
Stately and tall, in form a giantess.
Her brilliant eyes, like jewels, shone with light;
Her face was serious and inspired respect;
Her arms were mighty, full of strength and power.
Not crafty she, like Judith in old time;
She acted openly, with fearless heart.

Thinking to shun the close-impending ill,
She girt about her waist her father's sword,
Inherited from agèd Mooshekh's hand;
She to her shoulder swung the shield of steel;
A brave and glorious soldier she became.
She took the little Mooshekh, her dear son,
Called on the name of God, and took the road.

As she went forward free and fearlessly,
Lo, wicked men pursued her. Once she turned
And strewed upon the ground that evil crew;
But in the distance when her eyes beheld
A host of brutal Koords that followed still,
She cried aloud: "Thou knowest, O my God!
I am a mother loving well my son;
But now my Christian faith and love for Thee
Conquer the mother love within my breast.
I will forget parental tenderness,
The natural love that warms a mother's heart,
And I to Thee will sacrifice my son.
Once Thou didst hold the arm of Abraham
Lest he should sacrifice his only son.
But do not Thou hold back mine arm, O Lord!
Here let me sacrifice my youthful lamb."

She spoke, and drew her sword, and on the spot
Mooshekh, her little son, she straightway slew.
As, when we slay a fowl, it flutters wild,
So little Mooshekh at his mother's feet
Fluttered and died. The little dove's pure soul
Fled forth and joined the flock of spirits bright.

"Oh!" then said brave Garine, "I have saved
His soul and faith. I from the Book have learned
It is the spirit that alone gives life;
The flesh is empty, void, and nothing worth."

Thus brave Garine made her sacrifice;
And the barbarians saw the deed she did,
And they were struck with terror and amaze,
And where they stood they halted, stupefied.

But brave Garine then set forth again,
And as an eagle soars she darted up
Unto the summit of a lofty rock.
One side of it was sheer, a precipice
So deep his brain must reel who looked below.

Garine there upon the rock knelt down,
And upward turned her eyes to heaven's height,
And murmured from the bottom of her heart:
"Ah, do not count it as a sin, my Lord!
Garine shed the blood of her young son.
Thou knowest, Lord, knowing the hearts of all,
My sacred faith ancestral I have served
Since baptism: my virtue I have kept,
Which is Thy gift, a grace received from Thee.
Mother Shamoone I remember well—
An orphan-loving, faithful woman she.
She gave her seven sons a sacrifice,
And thus defended she her holy faith.
Thou knowest, Lord, my sacrifice is small;
Greater by far was Thine upon the cross!
Oh, give thy servant strength to sacrifice
Her life for Thee! Not from despondency
A suicide, but as a volunteer,
A victim to my love for Thee, I come!"

These were the words that brave Garine spoke.
On her bright face she signed the sacred cross,
And down that deep and dreadful precipice
She threw herself, unshrinking, to the ground.
Her body was in pieces dashed; her soul
Fled, and ascended to the heights of heaven.

The Angel oped to her the heavenly gates.
Garine entered to the realm of light,
And there she found again her little dove,
And soul was joined with soul in that bright realm;
The mother was made happy with her son.

Armenian mothers, take example hence!
Whenever you shall read these lines of mine,
The lines that agèd Hairig here has penned,
Be mindful of Garine, who, to keep
Her virtue and her pure God-given faith,
Unto destruction gave her mortal frame,
And won the heavenly kingdom by the deed.
Forever blessed be her memory!



AT EVENING.

BY BEDROS TOURIAN.



EAR, I loved you when Armenia's roses
 Budded forth upon your forehead pale—
 On the day those suns, your eyes, were hidden
 Bashfully behind their lashes' veil!

Freely the cool breeze your path may visit,
 And the stars gaze on you without fear.
 Only I, alone amid the shadows,
 Tremble, hardly daring to draw near.

Like a breeze to-day you flee before me;
 On my lyre your shade alone you throw;
 Like a comet from afar coquetting,
 While upon the air your gold locks flow.

Then the graveyard's frozen trees all whisper
 With the dead, beneath a cold wind's breath;
 Then my sad heart's chords give back an echo
 To their voice, an echo calling death.

But the light sound of your footstep echoes
 Ever and forever in mine ears,
 And my soul descends, with sobs and mourning,
 Into an abyss of woe and tears!

Lights and sounds have died; no leaf now rustles;
Mute our hearts—no breath of word or kiss!
Kisses now and murmurs all are buried
In the starry heavens' deep abyss.

Let the zephyr breathe upon its blossoms,
Let the stars look down upon the sea;
Let me too grow pale, if but once only,
When your ardent glance is cast on me!

When the crescent moon to the horizon
Blushing sinks on yonder mountain heights,
Then you vanish—then you walk no longer
There before the stars, the wind, the lights.

Like a breeze that stirs the leaves and shakes them,
So you stirred my heart's depths, full of fire;
And you drew from out my throbbing bosom
Those keen cords of flame that make a lyre.

You walk forth when day is done, my darling,
When the starry night is cool and sweet.
Do you know how with your glance of magic
You consume my heart beneath your feet?



TO MAY.



VIRGIN, mother of the sweet spring flowers!
O lovely May, in shining blossoms clad!
Why bring you not the blossom of my soul
Among your many-colored flowerets glad?

Ah me! Another angel may there be,
The May of the soul's flowers? Some happy day
Then may that angel come, and on my head
Shine with soft light—an infinite pale May!



MY DEATH.



WHEN Death's pale angel stands before my face,
 With smile unfathomable, stern and chill,
 And when my sorrows with my soul exhale,
 Know yet, my friends, that I am living still.

When at my head a waxen taper slim
 With its cold rays the silent room shall fill,
 A taper with a face that speaks of death,
 Yet know, my friends, that I am living still.

When, with my forehead glittering with tears,
 They in a shroud enfold me, cold and chill
 As any stone, and lay me on a bier,
 Yet know, my friends, that I am living still.

When the sad bell shall toll—that bell, the laugh
 Of cruel Death, which wakes an icy thrill—
 And when my bier is slowly borne along,
 Yet know, my friends, that I am living still.

When the death-chanting priests, dark browed, austere,
 With incense and with prayers the air shall fill,
 Rising together as they pass along,
 Yet know, my friends, that I am living still.

When they have set my tomb in order fair,
And when, with bitter sobs and wailing shrill,
My dear ones from the grave at length depart,
Yet know, my friends, I shall be living still.

But when my grave forgotten shall remain
In some dim nook, neglected and passed by,—
When from the world my memory fades away,
That is the time when I indeed shall die!



DAWN.

BY ARCHBISHOP KHORÈNE NAR BEY DE LUSIGNAN.

ROSSES upon roses
Spread in sheets below,
In the high blue ether
Clouds that shine like snow,
Lightly, brightly, softly,
Spread before thy feet,
In this tranquil season
Wait thy face to greet;
Waits in hope all nature,
O Aurora sweet!

Radiant, pure she rises,
In her veil of white,
With her floating tresses
Gleaming golden bright,
Spreading wide in ripples
By the zephyrs swayed,
And her pearly pinions
Opening, half displayed—
Gracious, fair Aurora,
The celestial maid.

On her brow bright jewels
Glow in loveliness,
And her joyous glances
Heaven and earth caress;
While her rose-lips, brighter
Than earth's blooming bowers,
Smiling blithely, scatter
Perfume sweet in showers,
Making yet more fragrant
Many-colored flowers.

Now the small birds twitter
'Mid the leaves so green,
Blending with their rustle;
Hail, O Dawn serene!
Hail! Thou changest darkness
Into sunlight free,
The sad earth thou makest
Glad and full of glee.
All created beings
Cry "All hail!" to thee.

Unto thee each offers
Its first gift in love,
Tenderest gift and holiest;
Cloud that floats above,
Zephyr, crystal streamlet,
Flowers and nightingale—
All with love are melted,
Praise thee, bid thee hail,
Heavenly maiden, lovely
In thy shining veil!

Thou our hearts that charmest
Now with such delight,
Leave us not forsaken
In the grave's dark night!
When our eyes are closing,
Let it beam and shine
Still before our souls' eyes,
That sweet light of thine,
Full of hope and promise,
Dawn, thou maid divine!



THE EXILE TO THE SWALLOW.



SWALLOW, swallow, was it thine,
 This nest, all cold and drear,
 That empty in this niche I found
 When first I entered here?
 At sight of it mine eyes o'erflowed
 With bitter teardrops, born
 Of the sad thought that my nest too
 Lies empty and forlorn.

O swallow, hasten to thy nest,
 And have no fear of me!
 In me a comrade thou shalt find;
 A wanderer I, like thee.
 I know the longing of thy heart,
 The yearning for thy home;
 I know the bitter pains of those
 As exiles forced to roam.

Happy art thou, O bird, to find
 Thy little nest at last!
 The time of thy brief pilgrimage
 Is over now and past.
 Forget thy woes, chirp merrily!
 Let grief be left to me,

Who know not of my wanderings
When there an end shall be.

Swallow, thou hadst the hope of spring,
To reach thy home nest here;
My winter ends not; spring I lost,
Losing my country dear.
Oh, dark to me this foreign light!
The air is dull and dead,
Bitter the water that I drink,
And like a stone my bread!

Swallow, when thou shalt seek again
This nest, to thee so dear,
Wilt thou still hear my trembling voice
Bidding thee welcome here?
If thou shalt find my humble cot
Empty and silent stand,
Bear to my grave a drop of dew
Brought from my fatherland!



THE ARMENIAN GIRL.

M. PORTOUKALIAN was among the founders of the Armenian patriotic movement. Born in Constantinople about 1850, in his school days he came under the influence of Chirman, and he devoted himself to spreading education in Armenia. He became an editor and teacher, and organized a strong society which founded many schools. In Van, besides a Normal School for general purposes, he started a Sunday school to teach patriotism. The young people were so unwilling to study on Sunday that at first he had to pay them ten cents apiece to come; but they became so enthusiastic that many of them later gave not only their money but their lives to the cause. The Turkish government suppressed his paper, and repeatedly closed his schools; but he had educated a generation of boys in progressive ideas. About thirty years ago he went to Marseilles, France, and started his paper, "Armenia," which he has published ever since, at the cost of much sacrifice. He organized the "Armenian Patriotic Association," which soon spread into Persia, Turkey, Europe and America. It was a great inspiration to all those Armenians who cherished revolutionary ideals, and it influenced the formation of the various revolutionary societies, the Hunchagists, Trochagists, etc. Mr. Portoukalian, however, is not an ultra radical. He has always advised against revolutionary demonstrations, foreseeing that they would lead to massacres. He felt that the first necessity was education. He has written a number of books and many political pamphlets, as well as poems and patriotic songs. For nearly half a century, he has been a devoted and self-sacrificing worker for his people.



IN my country laid in ruins, where the wrecks
of churches, thrones,
Grand buildings, crowns and palaces upon the
ground are strewn,
You would think that their first glory they now
silently lament.

A gentle maid, with face of woe, I see there, all alone.

What is this voice of mourning that she utters from
her heart?

What is this flood of tear-drops from her eyes, as
deep she grieves?

They wet her red cheeks, covered by her dark curls, as
the dew

Of morn the rose's trembling head, all covered by its
leaves.

Why so abundant are the tears outgushing from her
eyes?

Lo, signs of blood (oh, terror!) upon her pupils soft!
Angels of heaven, who see those tears, have pity and
descend,—

Collect them in a crystal cup and carry them aloft!

But no, not so; nay, leave them; to us those tears are
pearls.

They sweeten the sad rivers whose bitter waters flow
Forth from the ruins; from each tear the gentle maiden
sheds,

Amid the ruins, lilies white shall sprout, and bud, and
blow.

Like the spring breeze, a perfume sweet she leaves
where'er she walks.

She comes with trembling lips to kiss the ruins.
Kneeling low,

With hair disheveled, arms outstretched, and tearful
eyes upraised

Toward heaven, lo, lying prostrate, she laments in
grief and woe.

Oh, let all the world be silent! We must hear the
maid's lament.

Why mourns she thus? What sufferings are those
she has to bear?

What heart but must be horror-struck to hear her
trembling voice

Relate her sorrows infinite, in accents of despair?

"O God!" she cried, "how long wilt thou leave desolate
this land?

How long with pangs unnumbered shall my aching
heart be thrilled?

Which must I mourn—the ruins, or my brothers'
shameful strife,

Who smite each other always? Oh, these days
with grief are filled!

"How wretched is my nation's lot, girt round with
many woes,

With snakes within and snakes without, beset on
every hand!

Sons, traitors, 'gainst their mother arm; base writers
who take bribes

Would teach the people conscience and the love of
native land!

"God and religion, cruel ones, for you exist no more;
Your god is gold, I know full well; for it you sacrifice
All things beside, whate'er they be; but oh! from your
hearts' depths

Does not one voice to torture you at any time arise?"

THE ARMENIAN MAID'S LAMENT.

WHEN my Armenia's name I hear, my heart
with violence throbs;
When all her sorrows I recall, tears flood
my eyes like rain.

Was ever any country so luckless and forlorn?
With none to listen to her voice, she cries in bitter
pain.

Rise, Vartan, Dikran, Aram, and your Mother once
behold!

Let her laments awake you from the graves where ye
abide!

And see, see how the house of Haig in exile wanders
now!

'Tis banished without pity, stricken sore on every
side.

Ah, Haiasdan, my mother dear, how long, alas! how
long

Shall your children sigh far from you? How long
must you still roam?

How long before this motherless Armenian maid shall
reach

Your sacred arms, and wet with tears your tender
hands, at home?

If I could fly and lay my head upon my mother's breast,
And quench with joyful tears the flame with which
my heart is rife!

Let me be once caressed by her, and greet her with a
kiss,

Then let the foeman's whetted steel there sacrifice
my life!

Come, brothers and fair sisters, join hands and let us
work!

Our enemy is ignorance, look not for one elsewhere.
This foe has wrought us evil, from our mother made us
part.

We'll conquer it and drive it forth by study, love and
care.

Brothers and sisters, oh, how long will you indifferent
be?

How long must we let tares be sown amid our fields
of grain?

Ah, must we waken when the foe destroys and scatters
all

Unto the winds, till naught for a memorial shall
remain?

Maid, let your hopeless heart be cleft, your smothered
wail burst forth,

And let it ring on every side, beneath the heaven's
cope!

Yea, let it reach Armenia, and your mother, pitying,
hear!

Perhaps she will console you, since in aliens is no
hope.

Alas, I am afraid this pain will bring me to the grave,
And none will echo more my voice when I "Armenia!"
cry.

On every side is silence; you would think that here
death reigned,
And that, 'mid death and ruins, a lonely owl was I.

Ah, Haiasdan, to you I give my heart and soul! Accept!
Let me die, and my Armenia arise, if this may be!
Am I imprisoned for her sake, a palace is the jail;
And if my hands and feet are chained, that too is
joy to me.

If exiled, forced by want to roam, for my Armenia's
sake,
To me shall be a paradise each place beneath the sky.
Let me but reach my aim, and then be to the gallows
led;
"Armenia!" from the gallows-tree my strangling
voice shall cry.



THE IMPRISONED REVOLUTIONIST.

MIHRAN DAMADIAN was born in Constantinople about 1863. He was educated at the Armenian Catholic Seminary at Venice, Italy. He became a teacher in the Sassoun district, and was much beloved. With H. Murad, he led the fighting against the Turks, about the year 1893. He was taken prisoner, and his captors broke his leg to prevent any possibility of his escape. He was sent in chains to Constantinople, and kept for some time in prison. He is now living in Alexandria.

REJOICE! Another revolutionist,
 Turk, you have caught and in your prison
 pent.
 I too have fallen a victim to your wrath;
 But know, O tyrant, that I am content.

This is that dungeon, terrible and dark,
 To which in bonds your cruel hand, blood red,
 Brought many another like me; but of them
 Even the awful prison stood in dread.

Their hearts were dauntless and their wills of iron,
 Their souls invincible by any foes.
 You swallowed them, but straightway from their bones
 Against you new avengers there arose.

Into this dungeon Greeks and Servians
Entered, and divers torments they passed through,
And Montenegrins, poor Bulgarians—
But now with pride they all boast over you.

I kiss this rusty chain, with which you bound
Those heroes, who defied your utmost powers;
Whole nations have been ransomed by their blood.
Tremble, O tyrant! Future days are ours.

From the black clouds the lightning flashes out;
Even the cold flint gives forth fire; at morn
In the dark heavens the glorious sun doth rise;
And from his mother's pangs the child is born.

So shall the future's joy and melody
Come from our present sighs and tears and pains.
Against you a whole nation shall arise,
Roused by the clanking of our bloody chains.

I enter prison gladly, kiss my chains,
Embrace the darkness with its chilling breath.
Better the gallows is than your base yoke,
And revolutionists can sport with death.

But you, O tyrant, wherefore do you quake,
You, brave and mighty? Are you terrified
Lest you should not forget my death? Why fear
When you have thrust your sword into my side?

But no—methinks that you at last have felt
Your persecutions will be futile all;
And that, despite your efforts, in the end
The Armenian nation will be freed from thrall.

Then what to me is prison, torture, chains?
“Long live Armenia!” my last sigh shall be.
What care I even for death? By this my death
The martyr nation shall at last be free!



FURFURCAR (ROARING CLIFF).

FURFURCAR is an overhanging mountain with inaccessible rocky sides, around which, at the mouth of each pass, were ranged the seven villages that made up Dalvorig. Anyone climbing the path from Porkh to Hosnood hears the roaring (in local dialect *furfur*) of the wind. This peculiar sound is caused by the fierce current of the wind striking the folds of the rocks; and from this the place took its name.

Zovasar, Andok, Maratoog and Gepin are the highest summits of the mountains of Sassoun. Furfurcar is not as high, but the passes and valleys that surround it, and the perpendicular height of its sides, make it almost impregnable. For many years its brave mountaineers were able to defend themselves successfully against all attacks. This poem was written while they were still unconquered.



REFUGE of Dalvorig's valiant men,
 Of strife and dangerous days!
 Lo, all Armenia towards thee
 To-day in hope doth gaze.
 Thou black and naked mountain-side,
 That, when winds o'er thee sweep,
 Dost like a dragon hiss, or shore
 Wave tortured of the deep—
 Thou wild and desert Roaring Cliff
 O'er Porkh that risest steep!

Many Armenian hearts, methinks,
Till now are turned to stone;
No love or pity wakes in them
Their brothers', sisters' moan;
But passion and fierce jealousy
Have in them made their nest.
O that thine heights may dry our tears,
Put heart within our breast!
O Roaring Cliff, protect the poor,
The plundered and oppressed!

A monument of freedom,
All glorious dost thou stand;
The ice and snow, to torrents turned,
Lick at thy feet the sand.
Thee Zovasar and Maratoog,
Andok and Gepin see
With envy; those far-shadowing mounts
Are high, but thou art free.
Of our deliverance, Roaring Cliff,
Do thou the cradle be!

Lighthouse of the Armenians thou,
Fear of the wild Koord's heart;
Against the cruel tyrant Turk
Our fortress-wall thou art.
Only to lions dost thou give room,
In den and awful cave;
Only the eagle on thy peaks
A resting place may crave.
O Roaring Cliff, be evermore
The stronghold of the brave!

If against Dalvorig countless foes
Should come, and bid us pay
Twenty years' tax,¹ "Come take it, then!"
The Armenian will say.
But, drawing to the Roaring Cliff,
He on the foe will rain
Bullets and stones, instead of gold
With interest in its train.
O wild and rocky Roaring Cliff,
Be then their shield again!

Let brave Armenians muster
From every village home,
From Berm, Karag and Khiyank,
From Khoulp and Muchtegh come;
Let Sim's heights too be populous;
Fight, o'er the precipice
Roll down the foe, that Roaring Cliff
May see a sight like this—
Koords, Turks by thousands, fallen down
Within its deep abyss!

Let Sassoun's lions assemble,
Fierce roaring, on thy crown;
Thence, like a raging torrent,
Let them toward Moush rush down,
Mowing before them briar and thorn!
Let field and town arise,
And stretch, to help Sassoun's brave men,
Their hands, with sparkling eyes.

¹ A favorite device of oppression was to demand over again taxes that had already been paid.

O Roaring Cliff, give to them strength,
Courage, and high emprise!

And when Armenia shall be free,
A fortress we will rear,
Named Roaring Cliff; Armenia's flag
Shall o'er it glitter clear.
Let the surrounding valleys
And mountains joyful be!
Let the young matrons and the maids
All clap their hands for glee!
And let the cannon, that great day,
Boom out, with loud acclaim;
Let Roaring Cliff, Armenia's pride,
Be aye an honored name;
And let our land, from age to age,
Still celebrate its fame!



THE LAMENT OF MARTYRED SUMPAD'S
MOTHER.

THIS poem commemorates one out of countless acts of oppression. Sumpad, a young man of Alashgerd, had just finished his studies at Erzerum, and was on his way to the village of Pakarich as a teacher in 1888. He was arrested and searched, and among his papers was found a poem one line of which read, "The Turk is as wild as a wild cedar tree." Sumpad was imprisoned and severely beaten. One morning he was found dead in his cell, the body bearing marks of poison. His mother and his sweetheart died of grief.



Y dearest Sumpad, my belovèd son,

Flower of my heart and light of my sad eyes!

The Turk hath snatched thee from my arms,
alas!

Thou for thy nation wast a sacrifice.

"As wild as a wild cedar is the Turk,"

Thou saidst; the enemy thy speech o'erheard.

The more I think of it, the more I grieve;

The wicked one took vengeance for that word.

Hungering and thirsting for Armenian blood,

He threw thee into prison, O my dear,

And chained thee cruelly; thy pleading prayers

The God of the Armenians did not hear.

In Erzerum's dungeon, in a corner flung,
Long didst thou pine, and pant for air in vain;
And when thou didst yield up thy latest breath,
Thou, for thy mother, couldst but clasp thy chain.

Oh, let it reach to highest heaven, the voice
Of my lament, a mother's sighing breath!
And let Armenia's valiant-hearted men
Take vengeance for my son's untimely death!

Short was thy life as that of any flower;
Soon came the sunset and the daylight's close.
Pass thou to heaven, afar from this sad earth!
There from thy sorrows thou shalt find repose.

Thither will come thy sweetheart, and I too,
To clasp each other, safe beyond earth's strife.
I curse my fate, but bless thee, O my son,
Since for thy country thou didst give thy life!



THE SNOW.

ARSHAG MAHDESIAN, journalist and poet, was born in Paloo. He was graduated from Euphrates College at Harpoot, and took a graduate course in English literature at Yale University. He has been actively connected with the Armenian propaganda, has edited several periodicals in English devoted to Armenian topics, and at present edits in New York the English magazine, "The New Armenia."



HE crystal dream of the deep-souled sea,
 Enthralled by the glances the blue sky
 throws—
 The azure fairy that bends above—
 One day on the wind's wings toward her
 rose.

But now, repulsed by her changing love,
 It falls down sadly and silently,
 To be crushed on earth under careless feet—
 The crystal dream of the deep-souled sea.

When it weeps its way to the sea once more,
 Forgetting sorrow and bitterness,
 Toward the azure fairy again 'twill soar,
 Allured by the golden sun's caress.

THUS SPAKE MAN.



DEEP sunk in thought I wandered in a city
 dead by fire,
 Where walls, like blackened skeletons, in ruin
 rose on high.

Enshrouded by the shadow of Destruction all things
 seemed,
 Smothered beneath the sun that shone within a tomb-
 like sky.

Destruction with its breath of flame in triumph boasted
 high:

“Thus in one day, one moment, I destroy the pride
 and grace
 Of works that Man has taken years to rear upon the
 earth;
 And low he lies before me when I show him my stern
 face!”

But Man, of mighty will power, when he heard this
 haughty boast,

Raised up his sorrow-laden head, and like a giant
 cried:

“Destruction, you are longing for my downfall and
 defeat,

But you are all in error, you are blinded by your pride.

“Creating, still creating, I shall combat you for aye.
You may destroy, but I shall build forevermore, with
joy,
Till Godhood shall awake in me, and when that day
shall dawn
Then even grim Destruction itself I shall destroy!”



MISCELLANEOUS.

LOVE SONG.

NAHABED KOUTCHAK lived in the latter part of the 15th century. Although he wrote only love songs, he is revered as a saint, and his grave near Van is a place of pilgrimage.



THY face is like a moon that shines on earth,
Like a thick night thy clustering tresses be;
Apples of paradise thy temples are,
And thy deep eyes were lent thee by the sea.

Thou hast arched brows and dark, dark eyes, my love;
Peerless art thou among earth's countless girls.
Thine eyelashes are arrows to my heart;
Thy mouth is a moist tulip, full of pearls.



THE LAKE OF VAN.

RAFFI (Hagop Melik Hagopian) was born in the village of Phayajouk in Salmast, Persia, in 1835, the son of a prominent merchant. Business reverses forced his father to take him from school and put him to work. In 1858 he traveled through Turkish Armenia, and his soul was stirred by the injustice and oppression suffered by the Armenians. In 1872, when Ardzrouni started in Tiflis his famous paper, "Mushak" (The Workman), Raffi became a regular contributor. Aroused by the terrible events of those days, he wrote for it, as serials, a number of patriotic novels—"The Fool," "Sheik Jelaladdin" and others—which thrilled the people's hearts and attained immense popularity. Some were historical novels in the style of Sir Walter Scott. He died in 1888, much regretted.



DEEP silence everywhere—a hush profound!
 One might imagine nature to be dead.
 Sitting here mournfully, a pilgrim lone,
 O brilliant moon, I see thee overhead.

Since the beginning of the world and time,
 Moon, thou hast run thy course. Oh, hast thou seen
 The poor Armenians, once so fortunate,
 And dost thou now behold their sufferings keen?

I wonder if thou too, like me, O moon,
 Seeing Armenia 'neath barbarian feet,
 Dost shed salt tears of grief and bitterness,
 And in thy heart do piercing arrows meet?

Thy heart is like a rock, thy conscience dead.
How many massacres have met thine eye,
How many a carnage! yet thou buildest now
Again a bright arch o'er Armenia's sky.

Wherefore this silence? Speak to me, O lake!
Wilt thou not weep with me, whose heart is rent?
O breezes, stir the waves to billows high,
And with these waters let my tears be blent!

From the beginning all things thou hast seen
That in Armenia happened. Tell us, pray,
Whether Armenia, once a garden fair,
Shall always be a thorny desert gray?

Oh, can it be, our nation, full of woe,
Shall 'neath a foreign prince's sway lie prone?
Oh, can it be, the Armenians and their sons
Are found unworthy before God's high throne?

Will a day come when from Mt. Ararat
A banner shall be seen, by breezes fanned,
And when Armenian pilgrims everywhere
Shall start for their belovèd fatherland?

'Tis hard, O Heavenly Ruler! but inspire
Their souls, and let Thy light of knowledge flame
O'er them, to show them what is human life—
They by their works shall glorify Thy name!

Upon the lake there shone a sudden light;
A graceful maid rose from the waters there;
A lighted lantern in one hand she bore,
In one a shining lyre of ivory fair.

Was she some nymph, some peerless angel? Nay,
A matchless fair Armenian Muse was she.
Muse, read the fate of the Armenians!
The present and the future tell to me!

That sweet celestial spirit spoke: "Good news
I bring to thee, young pilgrim! Dry thine eyes.
New, happy days shall come; when reigns God's will
Freely, the Golden Age again shall rise.

"Armenia's Muses will awake again,
And her Parnassus blossom gloriously;
The car of Phoebus, shedding light abroad,
Shall circle round Armenia's gloomy sky.

"We too, like thee, passed many mournful days,
When a dark night, that seemed it ne'er would cease,
Enwrapped Armenia; and we too, dear youth,
Have now received the olive branch of peace.

"Wipe thy lyre's rusted strings with joy to-day,
Go to Armenia with an ardent song!
Awake the zeal of the Armenians,
Their zeal benumbed in lethargy so long.

“The time has come, the time so long desired;
Fulfilled is now the old prophetic word;
The day will dawn; behold the morning star,
A sign made visible—thus saith the Lord!”

Then darkness fell, the figure disappeared;
But long was heard the voice of sweetness rare,
Mixed with the murmur of the lapping waves,
And aromatic fragrance filled the air.

O happy news! O tidings glad and sweet!
What joy, fair Muse, for sad and sorrowing men!
Tell us, reveal if it be possible
For a dead corpse to wake and live again!



THE EAGLE'S LOVE.

SHOUSHANIK KOURGHINIAN was born at Alexandropol in 1876. She soon became known through her contributions to the press. Her first volume of collected poems, "The Tolling Bells at Dawn," appeared in 1907. Most of them are poems of freedom and of the labor movement. She has had little schooling, but has educated herself.



HE eagle sat upon the rocky verge;
He sat and sang—the wild notes filled
the air.

He saw the maiden in the vale below;
He marked how beautiful she was, how fair.

“Good girl, thou maiden like the reindeer fleet!
How sad it is thou hast not learned to fly!
In silence, in that place of shadow deep,
Thou like a flower wilt fade away and die.

“O lovely maid, if thou couldst only fly,
Queen would I make thee of my rocky steep!
And if thine eyes grew heavy, on my wings
I with sweet songs would cradle thee to sleep.

“To me those eyes of thine are darksome night,
Thy smile a burning sun, like that above.
The heaven vast would not rule over thee,
But would become thy vassal, for thy love.

“I wonder if thou canst not fly at all?
Who gave thee birth, devoid of wings for flight?
I wonder if thou never in thy life
Hast longed to soar in air, all free and light?”

Thus the proud eagle from the rocky verge
Sang, longing for the maiden for his mate.
He flew away, and soared o'er hills and vales,
Mourning and grieving for the maiden's fate.



FATHERLAND.

AVEDIK ISSAHAKIAN was born in Alexandropol in 1875. He received part of his education in Germany. He began to write in 1891. His collected poems, "Songs and Wounds," appeared in 1903.



MÉ, my fatherland, how lovely thou art:
Thy mountain peaks are lost in the mists
of heaven.

Thy waters are sweet, thy breezes are sweet;
Only thy children are in seas of blood.
May I die for thy soil, thou priceless fatherland!
Oh, it is little if I die with one life!
Would that I had a thousand and one lives
To offer thee, all from my heart,
To die for thy sorrow with a thousand lives!
Let me offer myself for thy children, for love of thee!
Let me keep for myself only one life,
That I may sing the praise of thy glory,
That I may soar high like the skylark
On the rising of thy new day, noble fatherland,
And sing sweetly, praise loudly
Thy bright sun, thou free fatherland!

THE SURE HOPE.

BY RAPHAEL PATKANIAN.



LET the wind*blow cold, let it beat my face,
Let the clouds above heavy snow-flakes fling,
Let the north wind blow, raging all it will,—
Yet I live in hope soon or late comes spring.

Let the heavy clouds make the clear sky dark,
Let the dense fogs cover the earth from sight,
Let the elements be together mixed,
Yet I know the sun will again be bright.

Let harsh trials come, persecutions rage,
And the light grow dim of the sun on high;
To Armenian hearts, pain is naught to dread—
But the poor man's hope must not fade and die!



THE LULLABY OF NAZI.

AVEDIS AHARONIAN, born at Igtir, Erivan, in 1866, has written novels, short stories, literary criticisms, dramas and poems. At the time of Abdul Hamid's massacres, he was living near the frontier between Turkey and Russia, and he saw the sufferings of the refugees, and took part in the relief work. His graphic tales, called out by these events, made a deep impression. While in the Caucasus a few years ago, he was imprisoned by the Russian government as a political offender, and he came out with broken health. His writings are highly esteemed.



H, sleep, my little one; oh, sleep once more!
 Thou need'st not weep, for I have wept
 full sore.

The blind wild geese flew, screaming mournfully,
 Across our heavens black, o'er vale and hill.
 Blinded they were among our mountains high!
 Thou need'st not weep, for I have wept my fill.

The gale is moaning in the forests dark;
 'Tis the lament of homeless corpses chill.
 Ah, many and many a corpse unburied lies!
 Thou need'st not weep, for I have wept my fill.

Laden with tears, the caravan passed by,
 Knelt in the forest black, and stays there still.
 It was our land's calamities and woes!
 Thou need'st not weep, for I have wept my fill.

Beads have I strung and on thy cradle bound,
To guard thee from the foeman's evil eye.
Oh, sleep and grow, my little one, make haste!
Thou need'st not weep; my tears were seldom dry.

My milk has frozen on thy pallid lips;
'Tis bitter, and thou dost not want it more;
With it is mixed the poison of my grief.
Thou need'st not weep, for I have wept full sore.

Oh, with my milk drink in my black grief too!
Let it black vengeance in thy soul instill!
Shoot up, my darling, grow to stature tall!
Thou need'st not weep, for I have wept my fill.



THE MARTYRS OF AVARAIR.

BY BISHOP KAREKIN SERVANTZDIANTZ.



F Coghtn's patriot bards are silent now,
Whose songs of old wreathed heroes with
renown,
Then let immortal spirits come from heaven,
Let them descend, Armenia's brave to crown.

Let flocks of angels come from heaven, and sit
On Ararat's high top, where cloud-wreaths brood.
God has descended unto Haiasdan
To scent the savor of Armenian blood.

O clouds, fly far away from Shavarshan!
Shed there no more your dews through darkening air,
For Shavarshan is watered by the blood
Of the Armenian brave who perished there.

No grass, no rose springs up or blossoms there
Upon that field which is our heroes' tomb;
But where the mighty Vartan fell and died,
The flower of sacred faith shall bud and bloom.

Brave Egiché, the sculptor, to Ardaz
Comes with his pen in hand, and fair and straight
He cuts and measures, he inscribes and stamps
The valiant Vartan's life and death and fate.

O Ararat, raise monasteries, shrines,
Domes cross surmounted, temples fair to see,
Gospel and cross, a lasting monument
That worthy of great Vartan's name shall be!

Shine on the mountain chain of Kaght, O sun!
In its dark niches let your beams arise.
'T was there brave Humayag in battle fell,
'T is there that he, a holy martyr, lies.

Moon, o'er the bones of the Armenians
Watch with your wakeful eye from heaven's blue deep,
And with the happy dews of smiling May
Sprinkle the lonely graves wherein they sleep!

Eagles and falcons of Armenia,
And cranes, her summer guests from age to age,
Over this land keep watch, and let the house
Of the Armenians be your heritage!

Perch on the ashes; in the ruins old,
Armenian birds, make ye your nests, your home,
And let the flitting swallow come and go,
Until for the Armenians spring shall come!



THE WAVES ON THE SHORE.

BEDROS ADAMIAN, a famous Armenian actor, was born in 1849, and died in 1891. He wrote many poems and translations.



HE day is bright June weather,
 The cool nor.h wind blows free;
 Why swells thy breast, old ocean?
 Hast thou good news for me?
 Thy billows, coming, coming,
 Leap high, then sink away,
 And on the shore forever
 Scatter their foaming spray.

O billows, ocean billows,
 These rocks and sands that fret!
 Bring tidings of the dear ones
 My heart can ne'er forget!
 Coming and ever coming,
 And breaking o'er and o'er,
 Bring some glad news to cheer me,
 A pilgrim on this shore.

Consumed by mournful yearning,
 Far distant from my sight,
 E'en now my dearest suffers,
 She sorrows day and night.

Her tears are ever flowing,
Her sad heart full of care;
O billows of the ocean,
To her my greeting bear!

Open, ye waves, and swallow
The salt tears from mine eyes,
And bury in your bosom
My grief, my bitter sighs!
O billows, now receding
Back toward the ocean blue,
Receive me as your comrade
And let me go with you!

Take me, O waves, and cast me
Like wreckage at their feet,
A witness to the love and grief
That bid my sad heart beat!
O billows, ocean billows,
Waves of the great salt sea,
Come, bear me to my dear ones;
Your comrade I will be!



THE DYING POET.

BY TIGRANE YERGATE.



WHY should not I, like the great poet, wear
Laurels upon my hair?
And why around my heart, for my relief,
Should they not ring, those songs deep sorrows sing,
Which from the heart like some dark essence spring,
Making the mourning great as is the grief?

When fate oppresses me and lays me low,
Why should I yield to woe,
Nor lift my brow with curses on my breath?
Grief can like wine intoxicate, in truth,
And grief can sing your glory and your youth,
Then lay you low in death!

What matter that at twenty years you die
If fame immortal shall your memory crown,
And o'er your bier the Angel of Renown
Exalt you to the sky?

Would you, a frail old man, drag out your days
Amid the foolish throng,
And let them mock you as your life decays,
While for your goods they long?

Come, dream no longer! Take your harp and sing.
When on our lakes a bird falls nigh to death,
Far rings his voice, more touching is his note;
The tall reeds shiver with a sighing breath.

He spreads his wings in a last flight, and looks
At the far heights—his song with sorrow rife—
And then falls, shattered at his high cliff's foot.
Naught has he carried with him out of life;

Yet a vague memory of boundless grief
Shall linger long upon the shore, the waves,
Like magic sweetness of a broken lute,
Or sound of teardrops falling upon graves.

Sing, poet, sing to-day your latest hymn!
In your endeavor, Glory smiles on you.
Poet, remember, to the world you speak,
And you in dying shall be born anew!



THE BOUQUET.

BY KHORÈNE M. ANTREASSIAN.



WILIGHT'S last ray is fading from the world;
Hushed are the varied sounds of grief and
mirth;
And, like a jealous consort, exiled Night
Is now returning to embrace the earth.

Sitting beside the open window here,
Mine eyes are fixed upon the sweet bouquet
Whose myriad petals silently repose,
Leaning fair head to head, in loving way.

Thou art not mine, thou beautiful bouquet,
That seemest mystic sentiments to teach;
Unknown to me the hand that gathered here
These flowers, which once were strangers each to each.

Yet over me a nameless sadness steals,
As, dreaming silently, I gaze on thee;
And in my stormy heart old thoughts awake,
And many a sweet, soul-moving memory.

Thou hast a secret that I cannot pierce.
Perchance an ardent message from some heart
Thou hidest deep among thy petals fair;
Interpreter of silent thoughts thou art.

With thy rich hues, so stainless and so bright,
Thou stirrest my sad soul victoriously.
Full many a long and dreary year has passed
Since any friend bestowed a flower on me.

Not for this only, on this foreign shore,
Thou movest me with memories of the past;
Thou dost evoke a question from my heart—
A question sorrowful, profound and vast.

These flowers of many hues bloomed far apart,
And each unknown to each, until this day;
Yet with what ease they here unite to form
A lovely and harmonious bouquet!

A hand, a gentle hand, collected them,
And now without complaint, without a care,
They wait their fate together, lip to lip,
Till the last sleep shall overtake them there.

Ah, why from this world's garden great and wide,
When human flowers together meet and stay—
Flowers differing in fragrance, form and hue—
Seldom can they unite in a bouquet?



UNHAPPY DAYS.

BY DJIVAN.



THE mournful and unhappy days, like winter,
come and go.

We should not be discouraged, they will end,
they come and go.

Our bitter griefs and sorrows do not tarry with us long;
Like customers arrayed in line, they come, and then
they go.

Over the heads of nations persecutions, troubles, woes,
Pass, like the caravan along the road; they come and
go.

The world is like a garden, and men are like the flowers;
How many roses, violets and balsams come and go!

Let not the strong then boast themselves, nor let the
weak be sad,
For divers persons of all kinds pass on, they come and
go.

Fearless and unafraid the sun sends forth his beaming
light;

The dark clouds toward the house of prayer float
past, they come and go.

Earth to her well-taught son belongs, with motherly
caress,

But the unlettered races like nomads come and go.
Djivan, a guest-room is the world, the nations are the
guests;

Such is the law of nature; they pass—they come and
go.



THE PRISONER TO THE SWALLOW.



STRAYED and wandering swallow, little bird,
How sadly by my prison dost thou sing!
Dost thou lament because thy lovely mate
Has left thee, and naught else can comfort
bring?

Grieve, then, like me! Yet thou art fortunate,
Thrice fortunate, for thou canst fly afar,
Flit through the valleys and across the hills
On thy swift wings, unstayed by bolt or bar.

But here the sun itself with pallid ray
To my dark prison cannot penetrate;
No gentle breeze blows here to bear my voice
Unto my dear ones, telling of my fate.

At least thou goest to find my well beloved.
Oh, swiftly dart! But then return once more
Near me, the wretched one, and tarry here,
O swallow, tarry till this night be o'er.

Stay here to-night and witness my sad death,
And, twittering o'er my grave with dew-drops wet,
Do thou, at least, O bird, remember me—
Remember me, and mourn, and ne'er forget!

HOMESICKNESS.



WAS a quince-bush growing on a rock.
A rocky cliff that rose above the dell;
They have uprooted and transplanted me
Unto a stranger's orchard, there to dwell;

And in this orchard they have watered me
With sugar-water, that full sweetly flows.
O brothers, bear me back to my own soil,
And water me with water of the snows!



THE PRISONER'S DREAM.



I AM a bird, a small wild bird,
In freedom wont to dwell;
But men have caught and caged me up
Within this narrow cell.

From my companions parted now,
My heart is sad and sore
Because I mingle with the flock
No more, alas! no more.

If they should bring to sing to me,
Here where I pine apart,
The nightingale and turtledove,
It would not cheer my heart;

Nor if they brought me as a gift
A thousand feathers fair
Of every hue, nor richest wine,
Nor candies sweet and rare;

Nor if they gave me power to sway
Vast kingdoms at my word,
Or made me of a myriad men
The master and the lord;


Or gave me servants in a crowd,
And countless horsemen bold,
Or built for me a palace fair,
Adorned with gems and gold.

But could I from this cell escape
In which my life they lock,
And fly away, and soar toward heaven,
And see again my flock,

And mingle with it, sporting wild,
Singing with gladsome voice,
My heart, that aches with loneliness,
Would 'mid the flock rejoice.



THE MOTHER IS LIKE BREAD.

 HE mother is like warm bread; he who eats of it
feels satisfied.

The father is like pure wine; he who drinks of it
feels intoxicated.

The brother is like the sun, which lights up the moun-
tains and the valleys.



PARTING SONG.

Sung as the bride leaves her home.

THE CHORUS:



HE evening wind has risen,
 The chief men have gathered.
 May I be a sacrifice for thy soul which goes
 into exile!

The strings of the purse have been unloosed,
 The daughter has been parted from her mother.
 The avalanche is coming down from Dilif,
 It is carrying away our little moon!
 The foot is in the stirrup;
 The mother weeps to see her go.

THE BRIDE:

I do not want to go, mamma! I do not want to go!
 They are taking me by force!
 Do thou, little mother, wish that it may bring me good
 luck,
 The milk that thou hast given me, that it may bring
 me good fortune!
 Do thou, little father, wish that it may bring me good
 luck,
 The bread that thou hast earned for me, that it may
 bring me good fortune!
 Do not groan, threshold of my home;

It is for me to groan.
Do not creep, O sun!
It is for me to creep.
Do not shake, little tree!
It is for me to shake.
Do not fall, O leaf!
It is for me to fall.
Do not shine, O star!
It is for me to shine.
Do not rise, O moon!
It is for me to rise.
Do not weep, mamma!
It is for me to weep.



THE WANDERER.



H, heavy hearted is the wanderer
In foreign lands, who hath his country left!
In gazing on the fever of his heart,
Even the rocks with sorrow would be cleft.

When you on any man would call a curse,
Say, "Be a wanderer from your native land!
And may your pillow be the mountain side,
And may you sleep at night upon the sand!

"And, when you think upon your fatherland,
May you from head to foot be full of pains!"
My heart is a cracked vase; in vain I pour
Water therein; unfilled it still remains.

Each bird of heaven hath its companion found,
I am alone and solitary still;
Each stone is fixed and quiet in its place;
I roll forevermore by vale and hill.

THE MOTHER'S LAMENT.



LOOK and weep, I, this child's mother. I say, "Alas for me! What will become of me now, unhappy that I am? I have seen my golden son dead!"

The fragrant rose has been snatched from my bosom; my soul faints within me! My beautiful golden dove has been made to take flight from my arms; my heart is broken!

My pretty, softly-cooing turtle-dove, death's falcon has struck it, and has wounded me. My sweet-voiced little lark has been taken from me and carried away to heaven.

My verdant pomegranate tree, all covered with flowers, the hailstorm has destroyed it before mine eyes—the reddening apple upon my tree, the fragrant fruit among my leaves!

My beautiful almond tree all in blossom, they have shaken it and left it without a fruit; they have seized it and thrown it to earth, and trampled the ground where it lies.

Oh, what will become of me, unhappy that I am! Many griefs have come upon me. At least, O God, receive the soul of my child, and let it rest in thy bright heaven!

THE DEAD WIFE TO HER HUSBAND.

I AM going to turn into an eagle. I shall go and perch before thy window; I shall lament so bitterly that sleep will flee away from thee forever. Anyone else may sleep; but thou and I, henceforth, shall know sleep no more!

S

THE SISTER'S LAMENT.



HE brother is the artery of his sister's heart.
He has only to speak one gentle word to make
her happy.


Come, my brother! Come, water of my fountain!
I am athirst for thee; whither hast thou gone?

Thou hast left me in the shadow; make light spring
forth!

The wall of my love has crumbled; come and rebuild
it!



SONG OF THE EMIGRANT'S WIFE.

HE road on which my absent husband passes, I wish I were that road! The water-course where he goes to drink, I wish I were the spring of that water! He would have stooped to drink of that water, and the wish of my heart would be fulfilled.

In the city where he alights, I wish I were the inn-keeper, so that he would come and alight at my inn! I would take him to my best room, I would twine my arms about his neck, and talk with him sweetly.



THE ORPHAN'S LULLABY.



SAHAG is on the mountain,
Thy father 'neath the stone;
The reeds thy cradle are, thy roof
The arching rock alone.

Oh, may the south wind rock thee,
Beneath the midnight sky,
And may the little stars of heaven
Sing thee a lullaby!

And may the wild ewe nourish thee
Upon her milk so white,
That thou may'st bud, that thou may'st bloom,
And grow in strength and height!

Oh, hushaby, my darling!
Lilies on thy pink face!
Sleep, child, and may the wind that sings
Blow o'er thy cradle-place!

Oh, may the wild ewe suckle thee,
And be thy nurse the sun!
May the moon sing thy cradle song!
Sleep, sleep, my little one!

A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.



HE wind that from the lofty summits blew
 Knocked at the door; the young wife rose
 and ran,
 In haste, with eager steps and beating heart,
 To fling it wide. Alas, 'twas not her man!

With breaking heart she to the hearth returned.

Her husband's mother spoke, to comfort fain:


"Daughter-in-law, my little daughter, say,
 Why dost thou weep? Tell me, where lies thy pain?"

"Mother, my little mother! Everywhere
 I am in pain, so for thy son I yearn."

"Weep not, my little daughter! To my son
 A letter I will write, and say, 'Return'!"

"If to thy son thou writest to return,
 May'st thou enjoy the light of God's bright throne!
 But, if thou dost not write him to return,
 Receive my curse, and turn into a stone!"

THE SONG OF THE GOAT.

HE goat went to play on the ice. She fell and broke her foot. She said: "Ice, then you are very strong?"

"If I were very strong," said the ice, "the sun would not have thawed me."

She went to the sun and said, "Sun, then you are very strong?"

"If I were very strong," said the sun, "the cloud would not have covered me."

"Cloud," said she, "then you are very strong?"

"If I were very strong, the wind would not have scattered me."

"Wind," she said, "then you are very strong?"

"If I were very strong, I should not have been able to glide through the chink in the wall."

"Chink in the wall, then you are very strong?"

"If I were very strong, the mouse would not have reigned over me."

"Mouse," she said, "then you are very strong?"

"If I were very strong, the cat would not have caught me."

"Cat," said she, "then you are very strong?"

The cat said, shaking his tail, "I am strong, I am strong, I am the chief of the strong! I am the fur of great lords; I am the head-dress of great ladies. In the village in summer, and by the fireside in winter, I sleep a sweet sleep. If anyone says, 'Scat!' I scud away, I go and sit in the top of a tree."

THE DARK DAMSELS.



SPRING on Mount Menzour flows out under the long-haired willow tree. Two beautiful dark damsels have come to fill their pitchers. Two young men, as strong as athletes, are passing by on horseback.

“Young girl, by the youth of thy brother, give me a drop of water from thy pitcher!”

“The water in my pitcher is not cold, it is hot. More men than one have died because they loved us.”

“Pour me a drop, let me drink, and let me die also, and let it be with me as if my mother had never given me birth!”



PLAYMATES.



BABY, in your little bed
How beautiful you are!
Whom shall I bring to play with you,
Searching both near and far?
For playmates I will bring to you
The moon and morning star!



CRADLE SONG.



HE nightingale, for love of the rose, cannot sleep the whole night long. He cannot sleep during the night, nor during the day until the evening. Go to bed, and sleep sweetly, until the morning light comes, until the good light comes! Then my nightingale will wake again, my nightingale will wake again, with eyes half open and half closed.



LULLABY.

SING the cradle song so that when you hear it, you may lie down and fall sweetly asleep. Go to sleep, my child, and grow—grow and become a great man; spread out and become a village! In the village where there is no great man, become the great man of that village. Become a great forest, burying your roots deep in the earth; plunge your roots down into the very depths of the earth, and may your trees with their branches cast their shadow everywhere!



HUSHABY.

HUSHABY, hushaby! The does have come. They have come, the does, they have come down from the mountains. They have brought thee sweet sleep, they have poured it into thine eyes, as large as seas; they have put thee to sleep with a sweet slumber; they have satisfied thee with their sweet milk.

Hushaby, hushaby! May the Lord give thee sleep! May Mother Mary grant thee peace; may Mother Mary grant thee peace so that thou mayest lie down and fall softly asleep! Of Mother Mary we will make thy mother, and of her only son thy protector. I will go to church to beg the saints to pray for us. Of the holy crucifix I will make a brother, that it may keep its arms stretched out over us forever.



SAD SNOW.



WHAT art thou, O thou light and fleecy snow?
 A flower, a coverlet, a winding sheet?
 That o'er Armenia's plains thou spreadest far,
 Unfolded white and wide, the sky to meet?

Or art thou a white dove from Paradise,
 That, when it saw the Holy Virgin there,
 Shook down the snowy feathers from its wings
 To form a scarf upon her shoulders bare?

Or cam'st thou from the angels up above,
 Who sometimes seek their future fate to know,
 Playing on high, "To die or not to die?"¹
 With roses white, whose petals drift below?

Or art thou downy cotton or soft wool
 That the north wind upon Armenia sheds,
 A pure and restful pillow to become
 Beneath our martyred sires' and brothers' heads?

If 'tis a feathery scarf thou art, O snow!
 Be swaddling bands and cradle soft as silk
 To children small who perished at their birth,
 Ere they had tasted of their mothers' milk!

¹ The Armenians play, "To die or not to die?" with flower petals as we play, "He loves me, he loves me not."

If thou art rose-leaves, pure and stainless snow,
Oh, then bud forth, a fresh and dewy wreath,
Upon the lowly and forsaken mounds
Where slim Armenian maidens sleep in death!

O mournful snow, fall thick and heavily
And cover mount and valley, rock and plain!
Cover the graves, that through the days to come
Unbroken their sweet slumber may remain!

Those martyrs for their nation and the cross,
Now and forever, silent and alone,
In hope of immortality in heaven,
Repose in death, with no memorial stone.



APPENDIX.

THE ARMENIAN WOMEN.



THE following extract from an Armenian classic will give some idea of the poetical prose of the Armenians. Eghiche, an Armenian bishop and historian of the fifth century, writing nine hundred years before Chaucer, gives a graphic account of the Persian invasion of 451 A. D., of which he was an eye-witness. In the eighth chapter he speaks as follows of the fortitude shown by the Armenian women, after the princes and nobles had been killed or carried away into captivity, and the country reduced almost to a desert : —

“But I cannot enumerate all the wives of the heroes, both of those who were in fetters, and those who had fallen in battle; for there are more whom I do not know than those whom I know. I know by name and by sight about five hundred; not only those who were the highest in rank, but many of low degree. All of them together, being kindled by a holy emulation, put on the same virtue of fidelity. They forgot even the name of the luxury belonging to their hereditary freedom, and became like men who have suffered from the beginning after the manner of peasants, and who have passed their lives in

this world amid hardships. The elder ones took upon themselves the greater endurance. They were comforted by the invisible force of the eternal hope, and accepted the heavy burden of bodily pain. For although each of them had had hereditary servants, there was now nothing to distinguish between mistress and maid. All wore the same dress, and all alike slept on the ground. Neither one made the other's bed. There was no distinction even in their food. All the mattresses were of the same dark color, and all the pillows were alike black. They had no special makers of spiced dishes, nor bread-makers set apart for service at table, but everything was in common. None poured water on the other's hands, neither did the younger ones offer towels to the elder. The delicate women had no soap, nor was oil offered to them for rejoicing. No costly platter was set before them, neither were cup-holders found at their festivals. For none of them did an usher stand at the door, neither were the nobles called by them.

"The bridal chambers of the young brides became dusty and dim, and spiders' webs were spun in their sleeping-rooms. The high seats of their palaces were destroyed, and the vessels of their table service were in disorder. Their palaces fell, and the fortresses of their refuge crashed down in ruin; their flower-gardens dried up and withered, and the wine-bearing vines of their vineyards were torn up. With their eyes they saw the spoiling of their goods, and with their ears they heard of the sufferings of their dear ones. Their treasures were confiscated, and nothing at all was left of the ornaments of their faces.

"The delicately reared women of the land of Armenia, who had been brought up in luxury and petted in costly clothing and on soft couches, went untiringly to the houses of prayer, on foot and bare-footed, asking with vows that they might be enabled to endure their great

affliction. Those who from childhood had been reared on oxen's brains and the choicest pieces of deer, now were glad to eat vegetable food, like savages. The skins of their bodies, blackening, became dark, because by day they were sun-burned, and all night they slept on the ground. The everlasting psalms were the murmurs of their lips, and their complete comfort was in the reading of the prophets.

"The women paired off two by two, like the animals, as equal and harmonious, drawing straight the furrow of the kingdom, that they might reach the harbor of peace without fail. They forgot their womanly weakness, and became brave males in the spiritual warfare. Doing battle, they fought against the cardinal sins; they pulled up and threw away their deadly roots. With simplicity they conquered guilefulness, and with sacred love they washed away the dark coloring of envy. They cut off the roots of avarice, and the death-bearing fruits of its branches dried up. With humility they trampled upon arrogance, and with the same humility they reached the heavenly height. With prayers they opened the closed doors of heaven, and with holy petitions caused the angels of redemption to descend. They heard the good tidings from afar, and glorified God in the highest.

"The widows among them became again as virtuous brides, and put away from them the reproach of widowhood. And the wives of those who were in fetters willingly restrained the physical appetites, and became partakers of the sufferings of the imprisoned saints. In their lives they resembled the brave martyrs in their deaths, and from a distance they became teachers of consolation to the prisoners. With their fingers they worked and were fed, and the pensions granted them by the court they sent year by year to their husbands, for their comfort. They became like the bloodless cricket, which lives without food, by the sweetness of its song.

“The snows of many winters melted, the spring arrived, the new birds came, life-loving men saw and rejoiced; but they could never see those for whom they longed. The spring flowers reminded them of their loving husbands, and their eyes longed in vain to see the desirable beauty of their faces. Their hounds died, and their hunting excursions were ended. No yearly festivals brought them from afar. The women looked on their dining-places and wept; and they remembered them in all their assemblies. Many monuments were raised to them, and the names of each inscribed thereon.

“But while thus upon all sides their minds were storm-beaten, the women did not retreat, nor weaken in heavenly virtue. To outsiders they appeared mourning and sorrowful widows, but in their own souls they were adorned with heavenly love. They ceased to ask any one who had come from a distance, “When shall we see our dear ones?” The desires of their prayers to God were only that they might finish their course with courage, filled with heavenly love, even as they had begun.

“And may we and they inherit together the Mother City of goodness (the heavenly Jerusalem) and those things which are promised to the beloved of God in Christ Jesus Our Lord! Amen.”



THE ARMENIAN CHURCH.

THE Armenian Church may be roughly described as about half way between the Greek Church and High Church Episcopalianism. Its head, called the Catholicos, has his see in a very ancient monastery at Etchmiadzin in Russian Armenia, near the foot of Mt. Ararat.

Under the preaching of missionaries, a part of the Armenians have become Protestants, and another part Roman Catholics; but the great bulk of them still adhere to their ancient national church.

The Armenians are eager for education, and have flocked in large numbers to the many schools and colleges that have been maintained in Asia Minor for years by the American Board of Foreign Missions, until the massacres and deportations of 1915-16 deprived them of almost all their pupils.

Owing to centuries of persecution, Armenian colonies are scattered all over the world. There are said to be fully 250,000 Armenians in the United States, and some estimates place the number much higher.



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The work is admirably done.—*Boston Post.*

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We are grateful for this introduction to authors some of whom have evidently high poetic powers.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

Contains many choice bits of verse, and is ample evidence that the spirit of poetry is the same the world over, whether in sunny Italy, pastoral England or persecuted Armenia.—*New York Journal.*

Miss Blackwell has succeeded in carrying over much of the native fire into her translations. . . . These verses give us a very high opinion of the literary capacity of the race which produced them.—*Congregationalist.*

Miss Blackwell has caught, we believe, the Armenian literary spirit. Whatever these poems may have been in the original, they are certainly gems in the English dress in which she has clothed them.—*Boston Advertiser.*

That a second edition of the Armenian Poems is already in press, although the first has not yet been out a fortnight, shows how strong is the interest in this graceful and forceful interpretation of the life of an oppressed people.—*Boston Transcript.*

The translator has been remarkably successful in giving in English forms an extremely interesting series of noteworthy poems from the literary stores of a long-suffering people.—*Buffalo Commercial.*

A most interesting product of Armenian poetical genius. It is a real service to let Americans and Englishmen realize that the nation for which we plead is a cultivated one, with not only a history, but a still living and productive literary power.—*Rt. Hon. James Bryce.*

The poems cover a wide range of subjects, and extend through all the passions that go to make up man's life—love, hate, liberty, religion, home, etc. Miss Blackwell's work has been well done, and she has brought to it rare intelligence, taste and poetic ability.—*Boston Times.*

A collection of poems revealing unexpected beauties. The lines are full of rich similes, and are pleasantly melodious, and altogether the translator's venture into an almost unknown literature has been most successful.—*Chicago Post.*

The great sympathy everywhere aroused for the Armenians will heighten the interest in their poetic literature, and their poetry is, of itself, worth attention. Almost every note is touched; of patriotism, love, religion. The volume offers a poetic study of very curious interest.—*Lillian Whiting in Chicago Inter-Ocean.*

A volume of Armenian poems is now issued, and it gives a new idea of the romantic nature of the Christian victims of Turkish rapacity and bigotry. The poems show an unusual love of nature, and are full of tender and delicate sentiments. These people are not, as increasing evidence shows, a half-savage, ignorant, immoral race, but a fine-tempered and intelligent body of men and women.—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.*

"Beautiful!" is the exclamation of a pleased reader, laying aside this collection of poems. They breathe a gentle fragrance. The soul is broader because of their perusal. They speak with a strange fascination. New inspiration is gathered from these simple yet wonderfully profound gems of poetic literature. . . . The work has been well done, and we are delighted to place this treasure in our library.—*Baltimore Methodist.*

These poems are truly Oriental in the fire of their passion and the splendor of their imagery. . . . We can better understand the song of Solomon after reading these. A tinge of sadness colors many of these exquisite poems, for they have been written in a land desolated by fire

and sword. But, beyond all else, they breathe a spirit of the purest and most exalted patriotism, and are all aglow with love of truth and liberty.—*Christian Work*.

The poems expressing the hopes, fears, sorrows, aspirations and ideals of this people have a double interest, that of literature and that of life. . . . The melancholy earnestness and true poetic feeling found in such verse will commend it to a wide and sympathetic circle of readers, who may learn from this literary source, as from nowhere else, something of the deeper-lying traits and tendencies of the Armenian folk. And the qualities that come out in the poems are such as to quicken one's admiration and increase one's sympathy.—*Hartford Courant*.

The poems are interesting as revealing, to a hitherto unequaled extent, the poetic genius and character of this betrayed and suffering people. It will doubtless surprise many to find that Armenia has both a classic literature and a rich fund of nineteenth-century poetry; that her poets have written with a vigor of thought, a delicacy of imagination, and a direct simplicity of expression, such as characterizes the best poetry of any country; that the verses are interesting in themselves, for the same reasons that the Bosnian and Serbian poetry is interesting.—*Christian Register*.

These poems reveal as by a searchlight the deepest qualities of the Armenian character. They show forth an ingrained heroism and an ardent aspiration worthy of the martyr people of this so-called Christian century. No generous man or woman can read them without instinctively desiring to send help to a people capable of thoughts so lofty and sentiment so tender.—*Frances E. Willard*.

I think your translation of the poems admirable.—*Dr. Cyrus Hamlin*.

I have read with much pleasure your translations of the Armenian poems, especially my brother's.—*Prince Guyde Lusignan*.

General A. W. Greely wrote from Washington, D. C.: "I spoke on this subject (the Armenian question) before the Parish Union of All Souls' Church. The literary part of the address consisted in reading your admirable translations of the beautiful songs, 'Nightingale,' 'Cradle Song,' 'Mother Araxcs,' etc., which were very much praised. An Armenian

was most persistent in seeking for copies of these songs, which brought his country back vividly to his mind and heart."

Miss Alice Fletcher wrote concerning the meeting of a Literary Society in Washington, D. C.: "I read on that occasion several of your beautiful translations of Armenian poems, and was delighted with the interest and enthusiasm they evoked. The meeting was at the residence of Dr. William T. Harris, Commissioner of Education. There were many learned and famous folk there, as the Literary Society has in its membership some of our brightest men and women. Armenian poetry was a new realm to almost all, and stirred an interest in the (Armenian) people in a new manner, along new lines."



TABLE OF CONTENTS.

PART I.

BEDROS TOURIAN.

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| LITTLE LAKE | 13 |
| WISHES FOR ARMENIA | 16 |
| TO LOVE | 19 |
| NEW DARK DAYS | 22 |
| WHAT ARE YOU, LOVE? | 25 |
| I HAVE LOVED THEE | 28 |
| IN MEMORIAM OF VARTAN LUTFIAN | 30 |
| SHE | 32 |
| LITTLE GIFTS | 33 |
| MY GRIEF | 34 |
| COMPLAINTS | 35 |
| REPENTANCE | 38 |

MICHAEL NALBANDIAN.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| LIBERTY | 39 |
| DAYS OF CHILDHOOD | 41 |

ARCHBISHOP KHORÈNE NAR BEY DE LUSIGNAN.

| | |
|---|----|
| ARMENIA | 43 |
| THE WANDERING ARMENIAN TO THE CLOUD | 45 |
| TO MY SISTER | 47 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

| | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|------|
| GENTLE BREEZE OF ARMENIA | 49 |
| LET US LIVE ARMENIANS | 52 |
| LET US DIE ARMENIANS | 55 |
| THE FIRST GREEN LEAVES | 58 |

MUGURDITCH BESHIKTASHLIAN.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| DEATH OF A YOUTH OF ZEITOUN | 60 |
| SPRING | 62 |
| A BRAVE SON OF ARMENIA | 63 |
| WE ARE BROTHERS | 64 |

RAPHAEL PATKANIAN.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| CRADLE SONG | 66 |
| THE TEARS OF ARAXES | 68 |
| THE ARMENIAN GIRL | 72 |
| THE NEW GENERATION | 74 |
| LULLABY | 75 |
| TO MY NIGHTINGALE | 77 |
| SHALL WE BE SILENT? | 79 |
| IF | 82 |
| PRaise TO THE SULTAN | 84 |
| WHAT SHALL WE DO? | 85 |
| THE SAD-FACED MOON | 86 |
| COMPLAINT TO EUROPE | 90 |
| SONG OF THE VAN MOTHER | 92 |
| EASTER SONG | 94 |

LEO ALISHAN.

| | |
|---|-----|
| THE VIRGIN'S TEARS | 95 |
| EASTER SONG | 97 |
| THE EXILES | 98 |
| MOON IN THE ARMENIAN CEMETERY | 99 |
| THE LILY OF SHAVARSHAN | 103 |
| THE NIGHTINGALE OF AVARAIR | 107 |
| A SONG OF FATHERLAND | 110 |
| WEEP NOT | 112 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| THE CHRIST-CHILD <i>St. Gregory of Narek</i> | 115 |
| HYMN <i>Nerses the Graceful</i> | 116 |
| LOVE SONG <i>Saiat Nova</i> | 119 |
| A GOOD COMRADE <i>Djivan</i> | 121 |
| THE YOUTH AND THE STREAMLET | 122 |
| THE LAKE OF VAN " <i>Raffi</i> " | 124 |
| THOU AND I | 125 |
| TO MY SWEETHEART <i>Koutcharian</i> | 127 |
| THE CHRAGHAN PALACE <i>Terzian</i> | 128 |
| THE WANDERING ARMENIAN TO THE SWALLOW <i>Totochiun</i> | 130 |
| SONG OF REVOLUTION | 132 |
| THE LAMENT OF MOTHER ARMENIA | 133 |
| THE SON OF DALVORIG <i>Damadian</i> | 135 |

PART II.

ATOM YARJANIAN (SIAMANTO).

| | PAGE |
|----------------------------------|------|
| THE SONG OF THE KNIGHT | 141 |
| THE MOTHER'S DREAM | 152 |
| PRAYER | 155 |
| MY TEARS | 157 |
| THE YOUNG WIFE'S DREAM | 159 |
| THIRST | 161 |
| THE STARVING | 162 |

DANIEL VAROUJAN.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| THE LONGING LETTER | 168 |
| THE WORKING GIRL | 170 |
| ALMS | 172 |
| THE AGED CRANE | 173 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

ARCHAG TCHOBANIAN.

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| THE BOND | 175 |
| TO THE MOON | 177 |
| THE WIND | 179 |
| WITHIN MY HEART | 180 |
| THE LULLABY OF MOTHER ARMENIA | 181 |

HOVHANNES TOUMANIAN.

| | |
|---|-----|
| WHEN SOME DAY | 186 |
| BEFORE A PAINTING BY Ayvasovsky | 187 |
| IN THE COTTAGE | 188 |

HOVHANNES HOVHANNESSIAN.

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| NEW SPRING | 190 |
| THE POET | 192 |
| SONG | 194 |

ZABEL ASSATOUR (MADAME SYBIL).

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| THE INCENSE | 195 |
| THE IDEAL | 197 |
| TEARS | 199 |

MUGURDITCH CHRIMIAN HAIRIG.

| | |
|---|-----|
| MURMURS OF A PATRIOT | |
| THE MEMORIAL OF THE LAMENTING SOLDIER | 206 |
| GARINE | 209 |

BEDROS TOURIAN.

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| AT EVENING | 214 |
| TO MAY | 216 |
| MY DEATH | 217 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

ARCHBISHOP KHORÈNE NAR BEY DE LUSIGNAN.

| | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|------|
| DAWN | 219. |
| THE EXILE TO THE SWALLOW | 222 |

M. PORTOUKALIAN.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| THE ARMENIAN GIRL | 224 |
| THE ARMENIAN MAID'S LAMENT | 227 |

MIHRAN DAMADIAN.

| | |
|--|-----|
| THE IMPRISONED REVOLUTIONIST. | 230 |
| FURFURCAR | 233 |
| THE LAMENT OF MARTYRED SUMPAD'S MOTHER | 237 |

ARSHAG D. MAHDESIAN.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| THE SNOW | 239 |
| THUS SPAKE MAN | 240 |

MISCELLANEOUS.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| LOVE SONG | <i>Nahabed Koutchak.</i> | 242 |
| THE LAKE OF VAN | <i>Hagop Melik Hagopian (Raffi)</i> | 243 |
| THE EAGLE'S LOVE | <i>Shoushanig Khourghinian</i> | 247 |
| THE FATHERLAND | <i>Avedik Issahakian</i> | 249 |
| THE SURE HOPE | <i>Raphael Patkianian</i> | 250 |
| THE LULLABY OF NAZI | <i>Avedis Aharonian</i> | 251 |
| THE MARTYRS OF AVARAIR | <i>Karekin Servantzdiantz</i> | 253 |
| THE WAVES ON THE SHORE | <i>Bedros Adamian</i> | 255 |
| THE DYING POET | <i>Tigrane Yergate</i> | 257 |
| THE BOUQUET | <i>Khorène M. Antreassian</i> | 259 |
| UNHAPPY DAYS | <i>Djivan</i> | 261 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| THE PRISONER TO THE SWALLOW | 263 |
| HOMESICKNESS | 264 |
| THE PRISONER'S DREAM | 265 |
| THE MOTHER IS LIKE BREAD | 267 |
| PARTING SONG | 268 |
| THE WANDERER | 270 |
| THE MOTHER'S LAMENT | 271 |
| THE DEAD WIFE TO HER HUSBAND | 272 |
| THE SISTER'S LAMENT | 273 |
| SONG OF THE EMIGRANT'S WIFE | 274 |
| THE ORPHAN'S LULLABY | 275 |
| A KNOCK AT THE DOOR | 276 |
| THE SONG OF THE GOAT | 277 |
| THE DARK DAMSELS | 278 |
| PLAYMATES | 279 |
| CRADLE SONG | 280 |
| LULLABY | 281 |
| HUSHABY | 282 |
| SAD SNOW | 283 |

APPENDIX.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| THE ARMENIAN WOMEN | 285 |
| THE ARMENIAN CHURCH | 289 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | 290 |
| ARMENIAN POEMS—COMMENT | 292 |

